The Washington Post

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Migrant shortfall hampers economy

Lack of foreign-born workers accounts for half of missing labor force

BY ABHA BHATTARAI AND LAUREN KAORI GURLEY

Alonzo Arteaga's title is general manager of a small hotel in Topeka, Kan. But these days, he doubles as a housekeeper, making beds, vacuuming floors and laundering towels to fill an ever-worsening worker shortage.

Like other businesses around the country, Senate Luxury Suites is struggling to keep going without critical employees. The hotel is down to three housekeepers, half the number it had before the pandemic, and Arteaga blames a years-long immigration slowdown, which he says has made an already tough situation worse.

"It's been three years of trying absolutely everything," said Arteaga, who has raised pay by about $3 an hour and offers discounted monthly rates to employees. "It feels like the workers really aren't there."

A shortfall of immigrants is worsening widespread labor shortages and hobbling the U.S. economy at a time when more than 10 million jobs remain unfilled, particularly in low-paying and physically demanding industries such as hospitality, agriculture, construction and health care.

While the slowdown in legal immigration began well before the pandemic, the covid-19 crisis intensified the process as the Trump administration effectively halted the flow of foreign-born workers into the United States. Although immigration has rebounded somewhat since then, particularly in the last six months, major shortages remain, rippling through the economy at a time when the labor force is also missing workers from early retirements, ongoing health problems and caregiving challenges. Labor force shortages are also contributing to higher prices for some goods and services, as com-

SEE WORKERS ON A16

CARTEL ℞ FENTANYL'S DEADLY SURGE



SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST



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Five dead in Apt. 307

They thought they were taking cocaine. The drug was laced with fentanyl.

BY SARI HORWITZ, MERYL KORNFIELD, NICK MIROFF AND STEVEN RICH

The building where the group died of fentanyl poisoning on Feb. 20 in Commerce City, Colo. And the dead, from left: Karina Joy Rodriguez, Sabas "Sam" Daniel Marquez, Stephine Monroe, Humberto Arroyo Ledezma and Jennifer Danielle Cunningham.

COMMERCE CITY, COLO. — From the doorway of Apt. 307, District Attorney Brian Mason could see the five bodies inside. They lay awkwardly on the floor and couch, their arms and legs contorted — a sign of sudden collapse.

A man in jeans and closest to the door was splayed on his back, his left leg bent at an odd angle. Not far from him, a woman with long brown hair was slumped on the kitchen floor, her face pressed against a lower cupboard. Another woman, in a black sweatshirt, lay just past the kitchen counter nearby. On a love seat toward the back of the room, a man sat frozen. A woman in a gray T-shirt had toppled over him, her head resting on his chest. Blood dripped from their faces.

A mass murder, Mason thought.

Mason, a slim 45-year-old who grew up in Colorado, had arrived at the suburban Denver apartment complex shortly after 8 p.m. on Feb. 20. It was such a frigid night that his knees were shaking. He climbed the outside staircase to the third floor with Sgt. J.P. Matzke, the supervisor of a local drug task force.

The scene looked like a party gone terribly wrong, Matzke told Mason. Five people down. Crime-scene technicians collecting evidence inside were suited up in Hazmat gear. They were worried that whatever substance had caused so many people to die simultaneously might still be in the air. They had tested for carbon

SEE CARTEL ON A10

War's costs to allies rising

ATTACKS WORSEN UKRAINE'S ECONOMY

Kyiv looks to West for more financial assistance

BY JEFF STEIN AND DAVID L. STERN

KYIV, UKRAINE — Two months of relentless missile and drone attacks by Russia have decimated Ukraine's critical infrastructure and blown a hole in projections for the country's war-ravaged economy.

Before those strikes, Kyiv expected to need at least $55 billion in foreign assistance next year to meet basic expenses — more than the country's entire annual prewar spending.

Now, with its energy systems severely battered, and more Russian attacks likely, some officials believe Ukraine could end up needing another $2 billion a month, and political leaders have begun trying to brace Western supporters for such worst-case scenarios.

"What do you do when you can't heat your house, you can't run your shops, factories or plants, and your economy is not working?" said Oleg Ustenko, an economic adviser to President Volodymyr Zelensky. "We are going to be requiring more financial assistance, and Putin is doing this to destroy unity among allies."

At a closed-door meeting last week at the National Bank of Ukraine, which now has a military checkpoint just outside its headquarters, central bank officials pondered what might happen if Russia's attacks intensify. People could flee Ukraine in droves, taking their money with them, potentially crashing the national currency as they seek to exchange their Ukrainian hryvnia for euros or dollars.

The Ukrainian government could be left without international reserves to pay for critical

SEE UKRAINE ON A22

With one week for primary, Va. race a sprint to the finish

BY MEAGAN FLYNN, LAURA VOZZELLA AND GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER

They got into the race on Monday and Tuesday, started slapping together radio ads and phone-banking campaigns by Wednesday, and in less than a week, voters will pick the winner.

Such is the mad-dash craziness of the week-long Democratic primary campaign in Virginia's 4th Congressional District, which is anchored in Richmond and vacant after the death last month of newly reelected Rep. A. Donald McEachin (D).

Don't expect mailboxes to overflow with endless campaign attack mail, or to be overwhelmed with dueling TV ads dominating airwaves at a cost of millions of dollars, or to see any of the usual campaign-season fare in a competitive primary race, because who's got the time (or money)?

That's the challenge in a race that started out with three but is now down to two major Democratic candidates: state Sens. Jennifer L. McClellan and Joseph D. Morrissey, who both represent Richmond. Del. Lamont Bagby (D-Henrico), the first to enter Monday, became the first to drop out Thursday morning. With Bagby out, that leaves McClellan — an establishment darling with a flurry of major

SEE CAMPAIGN ON A18



LUKE SHARRETT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Jennifer Stepura explains her 16-month-old daughter Emilia's symptoms to pediatrician Christina Lane in New Albany, Ind.

'A big bomb of viruses' has people sick for weeks

Doctors: Overlapping surges unusual, concerning

BY ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA

It started in mid-September with Vance, 5, who came down with RSV and wheezed so badly that his skin was pulling in and out of his ribs with every breath. His little brother Banks, then 11 months old, caught it too. Things were just starting to get better in October, when the boys caught a nasty cold that resulted in more sleepless nights. In November, the flu hit, bringing fevers of 102 degrees.

"It feels like a never-ending cycle," said their mom, Michelle Huber of Louisville. "We are beyond exhausted."

The 2022 winter season has been one of prolonged misery for many American families, full of sniffles, sore throats, coughs and trips to the emergency room as bugs kept at bay during the pandemic have been unleashed by the resumption of our old lives.

It's like "a big bomb of viruses went off," said Christina Lane, who runs a pediatric practice in New Albany, Ind., and has seen a crush of several hundred children with respiratory symptoms in the

SEE VIRUSES ON A6

IN THE NEWS



MATTHEW HINTON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly tornadoes Storms that raged across southeast Louisiana killed at least three and hit an already damaged New Orleans. A4

Secret JFK files More than 13,000 documents relating to the 1963 assassination were released by the Biden administration. A4

THE NATION

Harvard named its first Black president, social scientist Claudine Gay, who will step into the job in the summer. A2

The new director of the National Cancer Institute, the first woman to hold the job, has been diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer. A3

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Youngkin proposed allocating $230 million toward Virginia's behavioral health system, an expansion that would add 30 mobile crisis teams. B1

A D.C. Bar panel found Rudy Giuliani violated the terms of his license to practice law in the District when he filed a lawsuit in Pennsylvania to block the results of the 2020 election. B1

D.C. officials are offering tax incentives to turn vacant downtown offices into housing. B2

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WEEKEND

Beautiful, blue — and boring

Loud, chaotic action sinks the eye-popping new "Avatar" sequel.

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Improv with Shakespeare

A troupe's Elizabethan plays are off-the-cuff, couplets and all. C1

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CORRECTIONS

• A Dec. 11 Metro article about a leadership election in the Maryland Republican Party incorrectly said that Dan Cox organized buses for the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot. In fact, he helped organize buses for the "Stop the Steal" rally that preceded the riot.

• A Dec. 11 A-section article about remote mental health counseling at schools incorrectly said that the Cherry Creek school system is in Denver's southwestern suburbs. It is southeast of the city.

• A John Kelly column in the Dec. 4 Metro section misidentified the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman who spoke at the 1983 groundbreaking of the Dulles Toll Road as Frank Herrity. It was John F. "Jack" Herrity.

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After midterm success, Democrats struggle to find campaign chiefs

@PKCapitol
PAUL KANE

House Democrats won two-thirds of the most competitive races in November, leaving them narrowly in the minority but with at least 10 GOP-held seats ripe for the taking in 2024.

Senate Democrats defended every seat of their own in these midterm elections, while also plucking a GOP seat in Pennsylvania to buy a little extra insurance for their majority ahead of the difficult election in two years.

Yet neither Democratic caucus has named their campaign chair for the 2024 election cycle more than five weeks after Election Day.

"Those discussions are ongoing. According to the caucus rules, the incoming leader will have until the middle of February or so to make that decision. I expect that it will happen much sooner than that," Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), the incoming House minority leader, told reporters last week.

Insiders hope the new chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee can get announced before Christmas, or at least by the end of this month.

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) and his allies seem to be squarely focused on trying to tie together the legislative loose ends of the lame-duck session, before the House flips to GOP control when the new Congress is sworn in Jan. 3.

His decision for who chairs the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee might slip into the new year.

By contrast, Republicans are off to an early start. Almost a month ago, Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) and Rep. Richard Hudson (R-N.C.) won unanimous elections to take over the National Republican Senatorial Committee and National Republican Congressional Committee, respectively.

The slow-moving process is an indication of where the two caucuses view themselves in terms of 2024, with House



SARAH SILBIGER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Hakeem Jeffries walks to the Capitol from Longworth House building on Nov. 30 after being elected leader of the House Democratic Caucus. Unlike the Republicans, Democrats' House and Senate caucuses have not yet named campaign chairs for the 2024 election cycle.

Democrats seeing a growing field of contenders to run the campaign arm and Senate Democrats stuck in political limbo.

For Jeffries, this is shaping up as his first big test as the incoming leader, as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) departs the leadership stage and leaves behind an almost unparalleled fundraising legacy.

Two candidates, Reps. Ami Bera (D-Calif.) and Tony Cárdenas (D-Calif.), emerged for the DCCC this year, but a clutch of Democrats began to campaign for a different way to pick the chair, leaving it in the hands of whomever the Democratic leader is, rather than an open campaign before the entire caucus.

That change won approval a few weeks ago, but it became clear that, if either Bera or Cardenas were a popular enough choice, the caucus would have just gone ahead and elected one without changing the rules.

This has left Jeffries in a slight bind, trying to find the right person for a complex job that requires good candidate recruiting skills, fundraising acumen and a willingness to travel practically nonstop for two years. But he is also trying to walk the caucus's delicate tightrope of identity politics, aware that any choice could upset a faction of the caucus.

Whoever lands the DCCC post stands to elevate their stature as the potential majority-making chairman.

Democrats start the 2024 campaign in better-than-expected shape given that the November elections left Republicans clinging to a majority with just 222 seats and Democrats at 213. The battlefield starts out tilting in the Democratic direction.

That's due, at least in part, to how the GOP committees devoted resources in an uneven fashion, spending heavily to win deep-blue seats in suburbs outside New York and Los Angeles. But Republicans left a few more evenly divided seats undernourished in the Midwest, allowing Democrats to win despite a tough political climate.

Republicans hold 18 seats in districts that favored President Biden in 2020, including five in which he defeated Donald Trump by more than 10 percentage points and five more that Biden won by at least 5 percentage points, according to officials with the DCCC and NRCC.

Democrats hold just five seats in districts Trump won, four of which Biden lost by 4 percentage points or less.

Democratic aides have said that Bera and Cardenas have received interviews with Jeffries, but the field has expanded and the longer the process takes, the less likely the decision lands on one of those two.

To some degree lawmakers and leadership aides are looking across the caucus and creating potential DCCC chairs in their minds, with little clarity into whether these Democrats actually want the job.

Those mentioned include Reps. Don Beyer (Va.), a top DCCC fundraiser; Kathy Castor (D-Fla.), who for four years has chaired a select climate committee; Suzan DelBene (D-Wash.), a former chairwoman of the New Democrat Coalition; Lizzie Fletcher (D-Tex.), a prolific fundraiser who won a GOP seat in 2018 and is now in a safe district; and Robin L. Kelly (Ill.), who has served as the Illinois Democratic Party chairwoman.

The longer Jeffries takes to mull his options, the more candidates could pop up, with their supporters whispering in his ear. The main purpose of empowering the leader to make this selection was to eliminate internal caucus politics from the job, something that harmed the two previous DCCC chairs, Reps. Cheri Bustos (Ill.) and Sean Patrick Maloney (N.Y.).

To win the post in the leadership elections, each made promises to constituencies within the caucus that helped them win but also created lingering tension with other factions.

Now Democrats have given Jeffries the power to make the choice — but he still hasn't made it.

Schumer's first excuse for not naming a new campaign chief was Georgia, where Sen. Raphael G. Warnock (D) had to compete in a runoff election last week to lock down the 51st seat for the Democratic caucus.

But it's also true that there are very few Democrats angling for the job — and very few might be an overestimate. So far no one has stepped forward to indicate any interest.

And it will take one of Schumer's best sales jobs to land a DSCC chair, given the political landscape.

Democrats are defending 23 seats in their caucus in two years, and that includes three states (Montana, Ohio and West Virginia) where Biden lost by large margins in 2020. And Democrats must defend five more seats (Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin) that Biden won by less than 3 percentage points.

Coming off his successful 2022 tenure, Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.) received some encouragement to do a second term running the DSCC. But Peters begged off, having just run his own brutal 2020 reelection and then the 2022 DSCC, as he gets ready for likely another tough 2026 reelection campaign.

Beyond that potential candidates get floated through conversations among campaign operatives, former Senate aides who now lobby, and media types, spitballing names into the ether to see if any are interested. HuffPost approached a half-dozen Democrats or their aides earlier this week, and the responses all came back the same: "Zero interest."

This Senate class has posed previous problems for Democratic leaders to find a campaign boss. In late 2010, heading into the 2012 cycle, Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) got rebuffed by several choices before he finally cajoled Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) into taking over the DSCC, in addition to her leadership post and committee chairmanship.

In late 2016, after others declined the 2018 term, Schumer settled on a brand-new senator, Chris Van Hollen (Md.), fresh off his own 2016 win, to lead the DSCC.

Now Schumer, who is known for playing his heavy role at the campaign shop, will have to spend even more time finding someone to lead the uphill campaign for the next two years.

Social scientist Gay to become Harvard's first Black president

BY NICK ANDERSON

Harvard University announced Thursday that Claudine Gay, a scholar of political behavior, will become its 30th president next year and the first Black person to serve in that leadership post at the nation's oldest institution of higher education.

Gay, 52, the daughter of Haitian immigrants, joined the Harvard faculty in 2006 as a professor of government and is now dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the Ivy League university in Cambridge, Mass.

She will take office on July 1, succeeding Lawrence S. Bacow, the university's retiring president, Harvard said. Gay will be the second woman to serve as president.

"Claudine has brought to her



Claudine Gay, 52, joined the Harvard faculty in 2006. She'll take over as president on July 1.

roles a rare blend of incisiveness and inclusiveness, intellectual range and strategic savvy, institutional ambition and personal humility, a respect for enduring ideals and a talent for catalyzing change," Penny Pritzker, senior fellow of the Harvard Corporation and chair of the presidential search committee, said in a statement. "She has a bedrock commitment to free inquiry and expression, as well as a deep appreciation for the diverse voices and views that are the lifeblood of a university community."

Bacow, president of Harvard since 2018, announced in June that he would step down after this academic year.

The barrier-breaking appointment of Gay — the first person of color to be named as the university's president — comes several months after Harvard released a searing report on the history of its entanglement with slavery and racial discrimination in prior centuries. In remarks in a live-streamed appearance at the university Thursday, Gay praised what she called Harvard's "bold agenda for reckoning and repair."

Founded in 1636 as the first college in Colonial America, Harvard now is an iconic university with a global reputation and more than 31,000 students in its undergraduate, graduate and professional schools. The university is perpetually in the center of conversations about higher education, including an affirmative-action case pending at the Supreme Court. In that case, justices are weighing a challenge to Harvard's use of race as one of many factors in its holistic admissions. Harvard has defended its process as legal and necessary to pursue its goals for campus diversity — a position other selective universities share.

Gay said in a statement: "With the strength of this extraordinary institution behind us, we enter a moment of possibility, one that calls for deeper collaboration across the University, across all of our remarkable Schools. There is an urgency for Harvard to be engaged with the world and to bring bold, brave, pioneering thinking to our greatest challenges."

Gay earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University in 1992 and a doctorate in political science from Harvard's government department in 1998. She was on the Stanford faculty from 2000 to 2006 before joining the Harvard faculty.

In a video produced for the announcement, Gay said: "As a woman of color, as a daughter of immigrants, if my presence in this role affirms someone's sense of belonging at Harvard, that is a great honor." Gay also suggested that she wants to promote deeper engagement with the world beyond Harvard. "The idea of the 'ivory tower,' that's the past, not the future, of academia," she said.





POLITICS & THE NATION

Work turns personal for NCI chief diagnosed with cancer

BY LAURIE MCGINLEY

Last summer, when Boston cancer surgeon Monica M. Bertagnolli heard she might be selected to lead the National Cancer Institute, she asked a friend whether she would be able to do the job.

It was a disarming display of humility from an accomplished professional who has removed gastrointestinal tumors as big as pumpkins and herded not only Black Angus cattle on a Wyoming ranch but also thousands of strong-minded oncologists conducting clinical trials. Bertagnolli said her friend gave her a vote of confidence, adding, "You are kind of annoying — you never take no for an answer."

In October, Bertagnolli became the 16th director of the cancer institute and the first woman to have the job. And then, just before Thanksgiving, her life took an unexpected turn: The 63-year-old Bertagnolli was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer after a routine mammogram in Boston.

On Wednesday, Bertagnolli held her first town hall with thousands of employees, outlining her vision for the cancer institute and explaining her medical situation — topics she also discussed recently with The Washington Post. She made clear that while she will have to slow down from her ferociously rapid pace for a while, she expects the change to be temporary.

Bertagnolli has the most common type of breast cancer for someone her age — hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative, she said. The cancer is considered treatable and has a very favorable prognosis, with a high survival rate.

She is waiting for additional test results to determine her treatment plan, which will include surgery and perhaps some kind of drug therapy. She is being treated by doctors at Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center in Boston, where she was chief of surgical oncology for a decade.

Medications to block estrogen — a hormone that can accelerate tumor growth — often are prescribed for early-stage breast cancer, and chemotherapy is sometimes used as well. Treatment decisions are often based on a patient's risk of recurrence.

Bertagnolli alludes to, but does not dwell on, the poignancy of being diagnosed with the disease just as she takes the helm of the nation's biggest cancer-fighting enterprise, a $7 billion-a-year research operation. "I can't imagine having this challenge, on top of a very important job, without the kind of support I have from an incredibly talented team" at NCI and from her physicians and family in Boston, she said.

"I really am just fine in getting everything accomplished," she said. "We will take it as it comes."

At the same time, she said, she is a realist.

An older doctor, she recalled, would greet physician colleagues each morning, saying, "Every day when I walk in here as a doctor and not as a patient is a great day." From the very beginning, Bertagnolli said, "I always had it in my mind, yeah, one of these days I'm going to be a patient. We all are."



RICKY CARIOTI/THE WASHINGTON POST



SARAH SILBIGER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

In October, cancer surgeon Monica M. Bertagnolli became the 16th director of the National Cancer Institute and the first woman to hold the job. At right, Bertagnolli is introduced by President Biden in August at the signing of a law to expand veterans' health care.

Herding cattle

Bertagnolli grew up on her parents' cattle ranch in southwestern Wyoming, learning to ride and mend fences, 90 miles from the nearest town. She said her upbringing made her self-reliant but also sympathetic to the problems of rural health care, where someone who might have had a broken arm faced a long drive to get an X-ray.

She studied chemical engineering at Princeton University and graduated from the University of Utah School of Medicine, falling in love with surgery when she first walked into an operating room. She eventually focused on a rare inherited syndrome that leads to colon cancer and also concentrated on sarcomas, which are soft-tissue cancers that often wrap themselves around blood vessels or vital organs. She did in-depth training in tumor immunology — the relationship between the immune system and tumor cells — and became an expert on clinical trials.

At Dana-Farber, Bertagnolli was known as "a happy surgeon and a big-case surgeon," willing to perform technically difficult, high-risk operations that other doctors turned down, said Atul Gawande, a surgeon and writer who trained under Bertagnolli.

Unlike in some operating rooms, where the mood was grim and tense, the atmosphere "in Monica's was happy and weirdly comfortable and easygoing," said Gawande, assistant administrator for global health at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Bertagnolli said it was critical for her team — which sometimes numbered nine or 10, including surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses — to be at ease during long, complicated operations: "You want everyone to feel comfortable and secure so that they perform really well."

Bertagnolli became a surgeon when women were just starting to enter the field in substantial numbers, said George D. Demetri, a medical oncologist and director of the Sarcoma Center at Dana-Farber.

"It was really challenging for them, it was much more of an old boys' club," Demetri said.

While Bertagnolli often wears cowboy boots, she does not fit the stereotype of the brusque, swaggering surgeon, say people who know her.

"She is a surgeon without the personality of a surgeon," said Ellen V. Sigal, founder and chair of Friends of Cancer Research, an advocacy group.

Gawande said he believes Bertagnolli's 26-year-old son, Ben, who is autistic, is one reason she is unflappable.

"Ben teaches her every day," Gawande said. "I think a huge amount of her centeredness and calmness comes from raising a child who is a joy and a challenge every day." Bertagnolli and her husband have a second son, David, 23, who is in college.

Bertagnolli lives in Newton, Mass., with Ben and her husband, Alex Dannenberg, who is retired. She spends three days a week at NCI's headquarters in Bethesda, Md., and the rest of the time works remotely. Ben "has a wonderful environment, and it was not possible for us to move," she said. Besides, she said, she is used to taking the shuttle between Boston and Washington and does some of her best thinking "when I am commuting back and forth."

On Tuesday, she got up at 3 a.m. in Boston so that she could be in Bethesda by the start of the workday. In the little free time she has, she enjoys whipping up traditional meals — she is part Italian, part French Basque — and tooling around in what she calls her "hot rod," a 2007 Ford Mustang Shelby.

Lean and mean?

It was late July when Bertagnolli answered the phone to hear: "Would you please hold for the first lady?" Jill Biden, who like President Biden is heavily involved in promoting cancer research, came on the line and offered Bertagnolli the NCI job. In 2015, the Bidens' son Beau died of brain cancer.

Like her predecessors, Bertagnolli faces big challenges, including prodding the sprawling cancer institute to move faster and more efficiently. As NCI director, she is a pivotal player in the White House cancer moonshot efforts to reduce the death rate by half in 25 years and accelerate treatments for a disease that kills 600,000 Americans a year.

"The big question for her is, what is the role of the NCI?" said a federal health official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he did not have authorization to discuss the issue. "How do you make the NCI a more lean, mean machine?"

As Bertagnolli takes over the reins, she is making the streamlining of clinical trials a priority. The cancer field is awash in promising leads, she said, but cannot test enough of them because many studies are too complicated and costly.

"We have a fire hose that goes down to a garden hose," she said. "There are so many trials that need to be done that many are waiting for their turn."

Bertagnolli said she hopes to encourage more cancer patients, especially those in underrepresented groups, to take part in trials; participation is in single digits. Now that she is a cancer patient, she has signed up for a trial evaluating whether a new diagnostic test is helpful in selecting the appropriate breast-cancer treatment.

Paul Goldberg, editor and publisher of the Cancer Letter, a weekly publication on cancer research and policy, said a consensus has emerged at the cancer institute, the Food and Drug Administration, and in academia and industry that trials need to be overhauled.

"This is a movement, and she is one of the key leaders," along with FDA's cancer chief, Richard Pazdur, Goldberg said.

One of her major challenges will be trying to secure enough financial support to increase the number of research grants NCI can fund. Only about 12 percent of applications for grants are funded, and Bertagnolli wants to increase that to 15 percent by 2025, something that would require a major funding increase.

She will also be working closely with other health officials, including those in the White House office that coordinates the moonshot and in a new agency called Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, or ARPA-H, which plans to do ambitious projects on cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes and other diseases. Congress created the agency this year to conduct high-impact research that cannot be easily done through traditional approaches or in the private sector.

Since starting at NCI, Bertagnolli has appeared on several public panels to discuss her new role. When her driver said she would be 15 minutes late getting to a recent conference sponsored by the Milken Institute this month, she said, "No worries. No one's bleeding."

As she awaits more test results, Bertagnolli is focusing on being a good patient — "Most doctors are terrible patients," she said, laughing — and on relying on her upbeat nature. "I am very much a glass-half-full person, a natural optimist at heart in all things," she said. "And I hit things head on. I don't try to run away."

DIGEST

MICHIGAN

3 sentenced in plot to kidnap governor

Three men who aided a plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) received prison sentences of at least seven years on Thursday, capping legal proceedings that highlighted the growing reach of right-wing extremism and political violence.

The sentences were handed down in Jackson County Circuit Court, where Joseph Morrison, Paul Bellar and Pete Musico had been convicted in October of providing material support for terrorist acts, possession of a firearm while committing a felony and being members of a gang.

The three men, along with two others who had been convicted in an earlier trial, were members of the Wolverine Watchmen, a far-right paramilitary group.

Morrison, Bellar, and Musico were charged under the state "anti-terrorism act" enacted shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. They faced up to 20 years in prison for the terrorism and gang charges and up to two years for the firearm conviction.

But Judge Thomas Wilson handed down different minimum sentences for each man.

Morrison, who was considered the group's "commander," received a sentence of 10 to 42 years in prison. Musico, who was Morrison's father-in-law, received 12 to 42 years in prison. The group's "field training" exercises took place at their family's home in Jackson County.

Wilson gave Bellar, who prosecutors allege was the group's "sergeant," the lightest sentence. He faces a prison sentence of at least seven years.

In all, more than than a dozen people have been arrested in connection with the plot to kidnap Whitmer, which prosecutors said was fueled by anti-government extremism and anger at steps that the governor took to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

In August, two other men, Adam Fox and Barry Croft Jr., were convicted on federal charges of plotting to kidnap Whitmer.

Prosecutors said they planned to capture Whitmer at her vacation home, detonate a bridge and ignite an armed rebellion ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

— Tim Craig and Joanna Slater

TEXAS

Officer convicted in killing of Black woman

A former Texas police officer was convicted of manslaughter Thursday for fatally shooting Atatiana Jefferson through a rear window of her home in 2019, a rare conviction of an officer for killing someone who was also armed with a gun.

Jurors were also considering a murder charge against Aaron Dean, 38, but instead convicted him of manslaughter. The conviction comes more than three years after the white Fort Worth officer shot the 28-year-old Black woman while responding to a call about an open front door.

Dean shot Jefferson on Oct. 12, 2019, after a neighbor called police. It emerged at trial that the doors were left open to vent smoke from hamburgers her nephew burned.

— Associated Press

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Officials evaluate damage from deadly La. tornadoes

BY MAHAM JAVAID, JASON SAMENOW AND SCOTT DANCE

Meteorologists were surveying significant storm damage across southeastern Louisiana on Thursday in the wake of a tornado outbreak that killed at least three people Tuesday and Wednesday and roared through a part of New Orleans that had been devastated by another tornado in March.

The damage from nearly a dozen suspected or confirmed tornadoes was so widespread, the National Weather Service said its work to evaluate the severity of the tornadoes would probably continue into Friday and possibly extend into southern Mississippi as well. The tornadoes came during a two-day outbreak of deadly storms across the South, the product of a weather system that was bringing wintry weather to much of the country.

One tornado that passed along the southern edge of New Orleans caused major damage in Gretna in Jefferson Parish before roaring northeast into St. Bernard Parish, where Sheriff James Pohlmann said at a news conference Wednesday evening that it caused a two-mile path of destruction but only minor injuries.

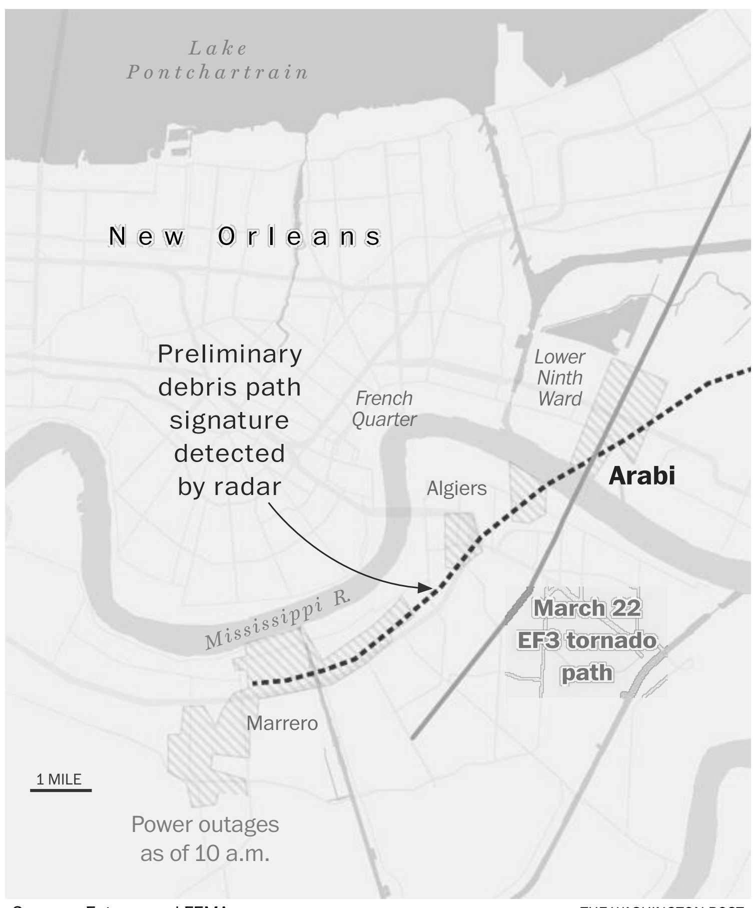
Arabi, a community in St. Bernard that borders parts of New Orleans's Lower Ninth Ward and was devastated by a tornado March 22, suffered major damage. That March tornado, rated an EF3 on the 0-to-5 scale of tornado intensity and the strongest on record to hit New Orleans, killed a 25-year-old man and damaged or destroyed dozens of homes in Arabi.

Four injuries were also reported Wednesday in Orleans Parish. As Wednesday's tornado swept across the region, debris could be seen falling from the sky on lower Canal Street in New Orleans, ABC



SOPHIA GERMER/ADVOCATE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vernon Worley stands in front of storm-ravaged property in Arabi, La. A part of New Orleans that was devastated by a tornado in March was hit again this week.



Sources: Entergy and FEMA THE WASHINGTON POST

News meteorologist Rob Marciano tweeted.

First responders reported large amounts of damage throughout Jefferson Parish, where the tornado may have first touched down. The parish said on Twitter that multiple poles and lines were down in the area.

The damage in St. Bernard Parish included broken roofs, said Guy McInnis, the parish president, at Wednesday's news conference. "No structures are completely destroyed. It's mostly shingle damage, and power should return in a couple of hours," he said.

"Please remember that we are not the only ones hit by a tornado tonight," McInnis said. "We are like tornado alley."

Photos and video from social media also revealed damage in Marrero, on the south side of the Mississippi River, and below downtown New Orleans in Jefferson Parish, where a shopping center appeared mangled.

As storms passed through southeast Louisiana on Wednesday evening, more than 38,000 customers were without power, according to PowerOutage.US. That was down to about 2,500 customers in St. Bernard Parish by midday Thursday.

In addition to the twister that tore through New Orleans, a tornado swept through nearby St. Charles Parish earlier in the day Wednesday, killing a 56-year-old woman and destroying her house.

Eight others were injured and at least a dozen structures were damaged in St. Charles Parish, including the sheriff's office firing range, parish officials told reporters at a news conference.

The Louisiana Department of Health said the woman's death in St. Charles was the third tied to the spate of storms. Two people died south of Shreveport, La., on Tuesday when a tornado struck the town of Keithville, damaging or destroying about two to three dozen homes, according to local officials.

The victims in Keithville were a 30-year-old woman and her 8-year-old son, local media reported.

Another damaging tornado on Tuesday hit the town of Farmerville, just to the northeast of Shreveport, injuring 14 people. It was rated an EF3.

"This has been a very difficult couple of days for our state," Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) said in a video posted to his Facebook page. "I am amazed that we didn't have more loss of life in Louisiana than we had."

Wednesday's swarm of damaging tornadoes began with a storm that tracked through New Iberia, La., about 20 miles southeast of Lafayette. It damaged several homes and trapped several people, according to the police department. Three people were taken to hospitals.

Tornado damage was also reported Wednesday in southern Mississippi, southern Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and southwest Georgia.

The large and powerful storm that spawned the tornadoes Tuesday and Wednesday originated in California over the weekend and is lumbering across the Lower 48 states.

It has also generated blizzard conditions in the northern Rockies, northern Plains and parts of the Upper Midwest, and was producing ice and snow across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast on Thursday. The wintry weather was expected to continue into Friday.

The National Weather Service received over 30 reports of tornadoes in southern Louisiana and Mississippi on Wednesday, adding to another 30-plus reports it received in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi on Tuesday.

After delays, Rocket Lab is ready for launch at NASA's Wallops spaceport

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT

After a years-long wait, one of the most successful space startups since SpaceX is set to launch a rocket from the Eastern Shore of Virginia on Sunday evening, an effort to turn a little-known launch site into a flourishing space portal on the Eastern Seaboard.

The two-hour launch window opens at 6 p.m., giving people in D.C. and the Mid-Atlantic region a chance to view the fiery trail of Rocket Lab's Electron rocket as it lifts off from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility. The facility near Chincoteague has been around for decades and recently has been the home of Northrop Grumman's Antares rocket, which flies cargo resupply missions to the International Space Station.

But about three years ago, Rocket Lab moved in, adding a commercial company to what Virginia hopes will become a flourishing roster of space companies operating at the site.

While other small rocket companies have struggled to get off the ground, Rocket Lab has launched 32 missions since 2017 from its facility in New Zealand. And a few years ago, the Long Beach, Calif.-based company started looking for a launch site in the United States. It considered the Kennedy Space Center but chose Wallops because room was available to build a manufacturing and processing site.

"KSC is an amazing range, but I think everybody has to agree, it's pretty busy," Peter Beck, the chief executive of Rocket Lab, said in a call with reporters this week. "Whereas we can achieve almost the same trajectories out of Virginia here. The range is not nearly as busy, and there's a lot of a lot of room to grow."

With its small size, just under 60 feet tall, Electron is designed to carry small satellites on short notice. That is a capability that is of particular interest to the Pentagon and the U.S. intelligence community. It is another reason that Rocket Lab chose Wallops; it's only a little over a three-hour drive from Washington.

Sunday's launch is intended to put into orbit three satellites manufactured by HawkEye 360, a Herndon, Va.-based company that operates satellites able to detect radio frequencies. Its system was able to detect GPS interference in Ukraine, for example, the company said.

In addition to launching Electron, a relatively small rocket, the company plans to fly its much larger Neutron rocket from Wallops. That rocket is intended to be reusable — after launching to space it would turn around and fly back to its launchpad. Beck said the company would attempt to land Neutron on its first flight, now scheduled for sometime in 2024.

"At this point, we will attempt to both ascend and descend, given that's what the whole stage is designed to do," he said. "It'd be kind of like taking off an airplane and not attempting to land it."

The launch now set for Sunday was delayed as the company and NASA and other federal agencies worked to certify what is known as the automatic flight termination system, which destroys the rocket in case it starts to veer off course and threaten populated areas.

"It's been a long road," Beck said. But now "the rocket is ready. It's on the pad. The team is ready, and it's time to fly."

Eventually, Rocket Lab would like to launch rockets as often as once a month from Wallops. During the briefing this week, Beck said the company is "looking forward to a pretty rapid launch cadence out of Virginia right off the bat. There's been a number of launches that are kind of pent up to be launched out of Virginia. So we're very excited to release the floodgates on that." But he didn't say how often the company expects to launch next year.

Over the past couple of decades, Virginia has invested about $250 million in what it calls the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport on Wallops. NASA also has made investments, including $15.7 million for a mission operations control center. The hope is that the facility and the region continue to grow.

"We think that with the advent of the Electron with this launch cadence, it's an opportunity for folks living in the Mid-Atlantic region, from Virginia Beach to Philadelphia, to come to launches," said David Pierce, the director of NASA's Wallops Flight Facility. "And we expect that's going to have a dramatic impact on the local economy."

Archives releases more JFK assassination files

BY AMY B WANG AND AZI PAYBARAH

The Biden administration on Thursday released another batch of secret government files related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, 59 years after his murder and more than five years after the documents were originally required by law to be publicly disclosed.

The newly released tranche of files — 13,173 documents — was posted by the National Archives and Records Administration after President Biden issued a memorandum.

"[The] profound national tragedy of President Kennedy's assassination continues to resonate in American history and in the memories of so many Americans who were alive on that terrible day; meanwhile, the need to protect records concerning the assassination has weakened with the passage of time," Biden wrote in the memorandum. "It is therefore critical to ensure that the United States Government maximizes transparency by disclosing all information in records concerning the assassination, except when the strongest possible reasons counsel otherwise."

Kennedy's assassination — and the subsequent withholding of government documents related to his death — spawned conspiracy theories over nearly six decades, particularly surrounding gunman Lee Harvey Oswald. The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald acted alone when he killed the president on Nov. 22, 1963, and that there was no conspiracy.

A large number of the documents released Thursday belonged to the CIA. Several focused on Oswald's movements, his contacts and even whether it was really his signature on a visa application for Cuba. Other documents focus on requests from the Warren Commission.

One document, dated June 22, 1962, notes that Oswald was mentioned in a recent Washington Post article as having defected to the Soviet Union — indicating that Oswald was on the CIA's radar more than a year before Kennedy was assassinated.

"A former Marine Sgt. of Fort Worth, Texas, who defected to the U.S.S.R. three years ago, left Moscow recently together with his infant child and Russian-born wife bound for the United States," the document said.

A December 1963 document described how CIA officials in Mexico City "intercepted a telephone call" Oswald made in October from that city to the Soviet Embassy there "using his own name" and speaking "broken Russian."

Oswald, according to the document, had visited the embassy earlier and claimed someone there promised "to send a telegram for him to Washington." In the call, Oswald asked if there was "anything new."

The 23-page document goes on to say, "Our Mexico City Station very often produces information like this on US citizens contacting Soviet bloc embassies in Mexico City. Frequently the information we get is extremely incriminating."

Another document, from September 1964 and marked secret, described American officials discussing Oswald and his killing.



JIM ALTGENS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

President John F. Kennedy's Nov. 22, 1963, assassination and the withholding of related files has fed conspiracy theories for decades.

The official, Felix Dmitreyevich Karasev, said he believed it was impossible for the gunman, Jack Ruby, to have killed Oswald "without the assistance of some U.S. officials," according to the document.

The official, in Helsinki, went on to write, "We tried to debunk this impression, but Karasev held to his views."

With Thursday's release, 95 percent of the documents in the CIA's JFK assassination records collection will have been released in their entirety, a CIA spokesperson said in a statement, and no documents will remain redacted or withheld in full after "an intensive one-year review" of all previously unreleased information.

"We have made tremendous progress in our review of CIA's collection of records. We're talking about over 87,000 documents originally included in the JFK Act collection," the spokesperson said, speaking on the condition of anonymity ahead of the release of the documents.

The CIA spokesperson justified the continued redaction of some documents, saying they contain information that details CIA intelligence sources and methods — some from as late as the late 1990s, given to help provide context about the CIA's methods and terminology.

"CIA believes all of its information known to be directly related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 has already been released," the spokesperson said.

In an initial review, the documents that were released did not appear to contain explosive new evidence of the decades-old assassination and sweeping fallout that followed.

Rather, many of the documents appeared to summarize stories referencing the murder that stunned the world, or showed how officials responded to news inquiries ("advising that his scoop may, in fact, be old news.") At least one document recalled how a low-level government clerk erroneously believed that documents about Oswald had been tampered with.

Under the 1992 President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, all assassination records should have been publicly disclosed within 25 years — or by October 2017 — but postponements were allowed in instances that national security concerns outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

President Donald Trump in 2017 announced that he planned to publicly disclose the remaining JFK files, only to delay the release of some of the files for national security reasons, setting a new deadline of Oct. 26, 2021. In 2018, Trump did end up authorizing the disclosure of 19,045 documents, about three-quarters of which still contained some redactions.

All of the remaining JFK files were originally supposed to have been released last October. Biden postponed that planned release, citing delays caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and announced that they would be instead disclosed in two batches — one on Dec. 15, 2021, and another by Dec. 15, 2022, after undergoing an "intensive 1-year review."

"Temporary continued postponement is necessary to protect against identifiable harm to the military defense, intelligence operations, law enforcement, or the conduct of foreign relations that is of such gravity that it outweighs the public interest in immediate disclosure," Biden said last October.

The decision upset JFK researchers, who accused the Biden administration of using the pandemic as an excuse for the government to stonewall the public yet again, noting it had been almost 60 years since Kennedy was assassinated.

"It's bizarre. It's been almost 60 years since my uncle's death," Robert Kennedy Jr. told NBC News in October. "What are they hiding?"

The CIA spokesperson pushed back Thursday against assertions that the agency is withholding information related to Oswald.

"CIA believes all substantive information known to be directly related to Oswald has been released. The few remaining redactions protect CIA employee names, sources, locations, and CIA tradecraft," the spokesperson said. "Likewise, we are not aware of any documents known to be directly related to Oswald that have not already been made part of the Collection."

Jefferson Morley, a former Washington Post staff writer and the vice president of the Mary Ferrell Foundation — which sued the Biden administration in October over the delay of the release — said his group was particularly interested in looking at a batch of "30 to 40 significant documents with redactions" that had been released previously, and comparing them to what would be released Thursday afternoon.

Morley said he was not encouraged by Thursday's release and felt the CIA was not acting in "good faith" to release all available information. Morley cited a 15-page document from 1961 — two years before the assassination — from Arthur Schlesinger Jr. to Kennedy titled "Memo to President CIA Reorganization." As of Thursday, it remained partially redacted. "What the CIA has hidden," Morley said, is whether the CIA had "operational interest in Oswald" at the time of the assassination.

In a memorandum Thursday, Biden said that until May 1, 2023, the National Archives and relevant agencies "shall jointly review the remaining redactions in the records." After that review process, "any information withheld from public disclosure that agencies do not propose for continued postponement" will be released by June 30, 2023.


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Doctors: Overlapping viral surges are unusual, concerning

VIRUSES FROM A1

past three months.

Parainfluenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), rhinovirus, adenovirus, influenza A, influenza B, respiratory enterovirus and human metapneumovirus. And then, there's the rebounding coronavirus: The seven-day average of new daily cases is above 66,000, with hospitalizations above 40,000, the highest those numbers have been since mid-September and late August, respectively.

As Year 4 of the coronavirus pandemic approaches, Lane and other doctors agree the overlapping viral surges and how they are playing out are unusual and concerning: Patients with back-to-back respiratory illnesses. Simultaneous infection with three or more viruses, or with bacterial infections, such as Strep A. Otherwise healthy people suffering for weeks, rather than days, with simple colds.

Some U.S. hospitals and European health authorities also report out-of-season increases in scarlet fever and Group A streptococcus infections. As of Thursday, two children in the Denver area and 16 in the United Kingdom were confirmed to have died after infection with a rare, invasive form of the typically mild and common bacterial, rather than viral, infection.

But there is no consensus about whether what's happening is a once-in-many-years phenomenon — perhaps some of it due to the hypervigilance of Americans who have become accustomed to scrutinizing every ache and pain for signs of infection with a potentially deadly virus — a change in how viruses behave that may be with us for a while, or something else entirely.

As of last week, nearly all 50 states were seeing a high or very high level of respiratory illness, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned that rates are likely to continue to increase. U.S. officials estimate that so far this season, there have been at least 13 million cases of flu, 120,000 hospitalizations and 7,300 deaths, including of 21 children.

Doctors say the chaos has resulted in frazzled parents begging for antibiotics (even when they are told it won't help their children recover from viruses), shortages of basic essential medications such as fever reducers and albuterol to open airways, and a barrage of questions about the interaction of different viruses in our bodies.

How many bouts of illness in a short period is "normal?" Is there something about having covid-19 that hampers people's ability to resist other viruses? Or is it normal for things to be so abnormal given our unusual situation, as we head into another covid winter?

"When you take a pandemic and then add co-circulation of other viruses in the mix, you might expect to see some weird things," said Deepta Bhattacharya, an immunologist at the University of Arizona.

Misunderstandings

The first thing doctors stress when it comes to viruses is there's a wide range of normal for how often an individual can get colds and other ailments, and still be considered healthy. On average, adults get two or three a year, according to the CDC, and children, even more. The very youngest of our species, those germ monsters who are babies, toddlers and preschoolers, can have as many as 12 colds a year.

Given the post-pandemic soup of viruses circulating today, those numbers might climb higher without any need for panic. Weill Cornell Medicine professor and immunologist John P. Moore said the health-care system may feel overloaded because "three years' worth" of very young children are now being exposed to some viruses for the first time.

As we get deeper into a winter when so many seem suddenly sick at once, there's also been a lot of talk on social media about a concept called "immunity debt."

There's no universal agreement about what it actually means.

Some scientists use the phrase to refer to the "immunity gap" that was created when susceptible people — especially young children — never developed immunity to certain common viral illnesses that largely disappeared during the pandemic, partly as a result of many families' isolation and measures such as masking. As CDC Director Rochelle Walensky and other health officials have stressed, masking not only helps prevent infection with the coronavirus but also RSV, the flu and other airborne pathogens.

And now that those people are being infected, they are spreading viruses to others, who in turn infect even more people.



LUKE SHARRETT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



LUKE SHARRETT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

TOP: Pediatrician Christina Lane, who has been inundated with sick kids, listens to Birdie Stewart, 3, and her grandmother Susie Stewart at her New Albany, Ind., medical practice this month. MIDDLE: It's like "a big bomb of viruses went off," Lane said about the hundreds of kids she's treated. ABOVE: A CVS Pharmacy's depleted children's section in Burbank, Calif., on Dec. 6. Frazzled parents report going from pharmacy to pharmacy amid shortages of basic cold and flu remedies.

But the idea promoted on social media that the immune system can be seen as a muscle, and that masking and social distancing resulted in it being out of practice and as a result, weaker, has been criticized by numerous researchers as misguided and dangerous. It was seized on by anti-mask proponents following a May 2021 paper by French scientists, who worried about an infection rebound among children who did not get the full complement of childhood vaccines during the pandemic and were susceptible to common pathogens.

Immunity debt, they argue, implies that people should purposefully expose themselves to pathogens to get stronger. But science tells us that while young children may benefit from playing in the mud, for instance, the opposite is true of exposing them to lethal pathogens and other biohazards. If you get the coronavirus or other viruses, you are at a higher risk of complications such as heart disease or liver failure, not to mention post-viral syndromes like Epstein/Barr or ME/CFS.

"Idiocy," tweeted one epidemiologist, while an immunologist wrote that "This is not a thing."

Viral interference

While scientists have learned a great deal about covid-19 in nearly three years of the pandemic, their knowledge is still limited about what happens when different viruses collide with each other: Might they amplify each other's effects, or perhaps, tone them down?

There is a fair amount of research about a concept called viral interference, how one respiratory infection tends to give short-term protection against another as the body's immune system rallies to fend off the first invader. The work is mostly in animal models and cell cultures but suggests that innate immunity — or the defense system people are born with — is activated by the first virus, often muting the effects of the second.

But this mechanism is not strong, Moore said, and does not always work. In fact, he explained, "if you are unlucky to be exposed to three different viruses simultaneously, there's no law that says you can't get all three."

Some people may be more susceptible to severe disease than others due to genetics or a history of previous exposure to viruses, and certain combinations or sequences of viral infection may be better at producing more potent symptoms.

Coinfection with winter viruses is generally believed to be uncommon. There's no clear data about whether that's changed, at least temporarily post-pandemic, but the disruption caused by the unusual confluence of waves of the flu, RSV and covid-19 — and anecdotal reports of patients suffering from multiple infections — has doctors worried. Being infected with more than one virus makes it trickier to diagnose and treat, and ultimately leads to greater disease severity and complications.

On Thursday, a World Health Organization update about invasive strep A infections in kids reflected that viral coinfection "may increase the risk of invasive [group A streptococcal] disease."

When the pandemic began, for example, some doctors believed it would be extremely rare for people to be infected with the flu and covid-19 at the same time. But then patients started showing up in emergency rooms with both, and studies later showed their outcomes were measurably worse than for patients with just covid-19. In a paper in the Lancet medical journal, researchers found that coinfection with the flu increased the odds of being put on a ventilator and death.

Some research suggests that the sequence of exposure may make a difference: A study published in the Journal of Virology in July suggests influenza infections may make it easier for someone to fend off the effects of covid-19 — but, for reasons no one has yet been able to explain, having covid does not appear to boost one's resistance to the flu.

So how does covid-19 fit in to what we're experiencing, especially since most Americans have been infected in the latest omicron waves?

Bhattacharya, the immunologist at the University of Arizona, said there have been questions about whether a bout with covid might impair one's ability to fight other pathogens after small studies showed changes in immune cells. However, he said, "only a few studies found very, very few changes that last, and others have found nothing at all."

Moore said it's important to distinguish between individuals who are suffering from long covid who have all kinds of perturbations in their bodies, not just their immune systems, and long-term changes in population immunity. He called the idea of covid-induced immune deficiency, that covid-19 can act like HIV or measles, which are notoriously immunosuppressive, "fringe."

"I'm not buying that idea," Moore said. "It's not supported by solid data."

One thing after another

The families rotating in and out of Lane's pediatric office in New Albany are a window into the viral purgatory facing so many families.

Shortly after dawn on a recent weekday morning, Lane scanned lab reports that had come in overnight: One child with RSV and adenovirus. Another with influenza A, rhinovirus and strep. Even after a few months of seeing kids like this, it still surprised her to see the mix of viruses circulating in her patients.

Since the chaos began in late summer, several dozen children — including her own son — have been so sick they had to be hospitalized. "They start with some typical flu-like symptoms and 24 hours later, they may be in full-on respiratory distress," she said.

Lane has been in her office late many nights treating patients, and once, she had to plunge an EpiPen into one child to get them breathing before calling 911. "These are healthy kids, but by the time we get them, they are so tight they can't breathe. I've never seen so many like this," she said.

About two weeks ago, the child in crisis was her own son, Ethan, 17. When he arrived at the local emergency department, it was so full that they wheeled him into a corner in an annex area. By the time doctors got to him, she said, his breathing was so horrible he had to be put in pediatric intensive care. Doctors pumped oxygen and steroids into him for a few days, and now he's recovering at home.

Ethan's case was one of her worst, but there have been plenty of other families who have struggled for many weeks, or even months, she said.

Lane has been doing her best to protect her patients, and recently pleaded in a letter to the families in her practice: "If you have a new or young infant, be wise and try to cocoon them the best you can right now. Your entire church group, friend group, neighbors and their snotty kids do not need to see or hold your baby. That's what FB or instagram are for."

"Hospitals are incredibly full and ER wait times are atrocious," she continued. "What could be a sniffle for them could end up putting your baby in the hospital."

She's also been urging patients and their families to stay up to date on flu and covid shots and consider masking.

Allison Edelen's 5-year-old son, Crosby, another of Lane's patients, started coughing the day before Halloween. "It was not his normal coughing," she recalled, and a few days later, he was coughing to the point of throwing up. Whatever it was — doctors suspect RSV but did not test — jumped next to Penny, 2, and to Parks, their youngest at 5 months old.

"I was terrified," she said. During one particularly brutal stretch of two weeks, Edelen was staying up all night giving breathing treatments to the kids every two hours. Two ear infections, one round of steroids and a pneumonia scare later, her husband caught the bug, too. But for him, it felt mostly like a mild cold. The week after he got better, he was slammed with the flu.

Most bafflingly, Edelen, 32, never got sick. "I was sanitizing our house like a crazy person," she said.

Her family has finally been illness-free for about a week for the first time this season and decided to stick to pandemic-era protocols for at least the rest of the year in self-protection. "We go to church, but we are at the point where we are not doing anything else we don't necessarily have to do," she said.

As for the Huber family, Michelle was hoping that things were returning to normal this week as 5-year-old Vance transformed back to his old self: playing soccer, chasing after their dog and making other mischief on their farm. But then one night, she noticed he had a slightly runny nose. Within a couple of days, that turned into a fever of 101.4 — Round 4 of respiratory viruses in three months for the little guy.

"I'm one of those people who is a planner," she said. "It's very frustrating to take it day by day, but at least we're not alone. … Otherwise I would be hard-pressed to think this is real."

Texas AG's office sought data on transgender residents

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE



PHOTOS BY SERGIO FLORES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Smith Puerto with their wife, Kristina. Puerto, who identifies as transgender and nonbinary, changed their Texas driver's license gender marker from female to male about a year ago. "In a state like Texas, you don't always want people to know you're different," they said.

HOUSTON — Employees at the Texas Department of Public Safety in June received a sweeping request from Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton's office: Compile a list of individuals who had changed their gender on their Texas driver's license and other department records during the past two years.

"Need total number of changes from male to female and female to male for the last 24 months, broken down by month," the chief of the DPS's driver license division emailed colleagues in the department on June 30, according to a copy of a message obtained by The Washington Post through a public records request. "We won't need DL/ID numbers at first but may need to have them later if we are required to manually look up documents."

After more than 16,000 such instances were identified, DPS officials determined that a manual search would be needed to determine the reason for the changes, DPS spokesman Travis Considine told The Post in response to questions.

"A verbal request was received," he wrote in an email. "Ultimately, our team advised the AG's office the data requested neither exists nor could be accurately produced. Thus, no data of any kind was provided."

Asked who in Paxton's office had requested the records, he replied: "I cannot say."

The behind-the-scenes effort by Paxton's office to obtain data on how many Texans had changed their gender on their license came as the attorney general, Gov. Greg Abbott and other Republican leaders in the state have been publicly marshaling resources against transgender Texans.

In October 2021, Abbott signed a bill banning transgender youths from participating in sports that align with their gender identity at K-12 public schools; this year he ordered the state to investigate the provision of gender-affirming care as potential child abuse. State lawmakers have already proposed more than a dozen anti-LGBTQ measures ahead of the next session in January, including criminalizing gender-affirming care and banning minors at drag shows.

Public records obtained by The Post do not indicate why the attorney general's office sought the driver's license information. But advocates for transgender Texans say Paxton could use the data to further restrict their right to transition, calling it a chilling effort to secretly harness personal information to persecute already vulnerable people.

"This is another brick building toward targeting these individuals," said Ian Pittman, an Austin attorney who represents Texas parents of transgender children investigated by the state. "They've already targeted children and parents. The next step would be targeting adults. And what better way than seeing what adults had had their sex changed on their driver's licenses?"

Alexis Salkeld Garcia, 34, of Austin, a trans woman who changed the gender listed on her driver's license from male to female a year and a half ago, said the attorney general's office inquiry made her feel "terrified."

"It's very specifically targeted, and the one person I don't want knowing about my gender status is Ken Paxton," said Salkeld Garcia, a software engineer who worries state officials might try to switch the gender listed on her driver's license back to male.

"I don't want a cop pulling me over and knowing I'm trans. That is why I changed my gender marker extremely quickly" after transitioning, she said.

Paxton's office did not respond to requests for comment.

The records obtained by The Post, which document communications between DPS employees, are entitled: "AG Request Sex Change Data" and "AG data request." They indicate that Paxton's office sought the records a month after the state Supreme Court ruled that Paxton and Abbott had overreached in their efforts to investigate families with transgender children for child abuse.

Paxton's office bypassed the normal channels — DPS's government relations and general counsel's offices — and went straight to the driver license division staff in making the request, according to a state employee familiar with it, who said the staff was told that Paxton's office wanted "numbers" and later would want "a list" of names, as well as "the number of people who had had a legal sex change."

During the following two months, the employee said, the DPS staff searched its records for changes in the "sex" category of not only driver's licenses but also state ID cards available from birth, learner's permits issued to those age 15 and up, commercial licenses, state election certificates, and occupational licenses. The employee spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid retaliation for describing internal state discussions.

DPS staff members compiled a list of 16,466 gender changes between June 1, 2020, and June 30, 2022, public records show. In the emails, DPS staff members repeatedly referred to the request as coming from the attorney general's office as they discussed attempting to narrow the data to include only licenses that had been altered to reflect a court-ordered change in someone's gender.

DPS staff members did spot checks on the data, examining records that included names of specific individuals, according to records and the state employee familiar with the inquiry. But it was hard to weed out driver's licenses that had been changed in error, or multiple times, or for reasons other than gender changes.

"It will be very difficult to determine which records had a valid update without a manual review of all supporting documents," an assistant manager in DPS's driver license division wrote in an email to colleagues on July 22.

On Aug. 4, the division chief emailed staff members, "We have expended enough effort on this attempt to provide data. After this run, have them package the data that they have with the high level explanations and close it out." On Aug. 18, a senior manager emailed to say a data engineer had "provided the data request by the AG's office (attached)."

Last month, The Post made a request to Paxton's office for all records the attorney general's office had directed other state offices to compile related to driver's licenses in which the sex of the driver was changed, as well as related emails between Paxton's office and other state agencies.

Officials indicated that no such records existed.

"Why would the Office of the Attorney General have gathered this information?" Assistant Attorney General June Harden wrote in an email to The Post, later adding, "Why do you believe this is the case?"

If they did, Harden said, any records were probably exempt from release because of either attorney-client privilege or confidentiality.

Marisol Bernal-Leon, a spokeswoman for the attorney general's office, later emailed that the office "has reviewed its files and has no information responsive to your request" for either records it had requested from DPS or emails between the attorney general's office and DPS.

Separately, DPS provided The Post with a half-dozen documents spanning three months that referenced the request by Paxton's office.

When The Post shared copies of the records that had been provided by DPS, Assistant Attorney General Lauren Downey noted that "none of the records provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety are communications with the Office of the Attorney General. Our response to your request was accurate."

Downey did not reply to questions about why the DPS emails refer to the request as originating from the attorney general. Paxton's office has yet to respond to another public records request for any records of its contact with DPS concerning driver's license changes via means other than email, including phone calls, video meetings and in-person exchanges.

The earlier attempt by Paxton and his allies to direct state agencies to identify parents of transgender youths and investigate them for child abuse has mostly been blocked by the courts.

Last year, lawmakers in the Republican-dominated legislature failed to pass a measure that would have criminalized gender confirmation care, which major medical associations have deemed science-based medical care. Afterward, state Rep. Matt Krause (R) — chair of the state House committee on general investigating — contacted Paxton, who issued a legal opinion that gender-affirming care for minors could be considered child abuse. Days later, Abbott directed the state child welfare agency to investigate parents facilitating such care for their children, sparking several investigations within days, according to public records.

After Abbott issued the directive, agency staff members were told not to communicate in writing about it, including emails and texts, according to public records.

Some of the families sued, winning a temporary statewide injunction in *Doe v. Abbott*, blocking the investigations until the lawsuit reached the state Supreme Court in May. The court overturned the injunction on procedural grounds but found that Paxton's legal opinion that was not binding and that Abbott did not have the authority to direct state child welfare staff members to initiate child abuse investigations of families with transgender children.



Alexis Salkeld Garcia, a trans woman, changed the gender listed on her Texas driver's license from male to female a year and a half ago.

"[N]either the Governor nor the Attorney General has statutory authority to directly control DFPS's investigatory decisions," the court ruled.

But Pittman, the attorney who has represented Texas parents of transgender children, noted that lawyers for the attorney general's office later argued against what the Supreme Court had determined: that Republican leaders "had political tools but they could not direct the department in that way." He said they appeared to be "ignoring direct Supreme Court statements."

The American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal also sued to stop the investigations on behalf of PFLAG, an LGBTQ advocacy group with more than 600 members in Texas. A county judge in Austin ruled in their favor in September, blocking the state from investigating PFLAG members. That covered most of the dozen families the state admitted to investigating but not necessarily all, said Shelly Skeen, a Dallas-based senior attorney at Lambda Legal working on the PFLAG and *Doe v. Abbott* cases.

Skeen called the attorney general's inquiry into driver's license records "a gross violation of privacy" intended to "target one group of people to fire up their base while transgender people are just trying to live their lives."

"The constitutional issues that this raises are equal protection and due process under the 14th Amendment as well as discrimination based on sex," Skeen said.

Some Texas judges seal or restrict access to court records of gender changes for privacy reasons, but also because transgender individuals have been harassed online and faced threats of violence, Skeen said.

"If you do not have access to identity documents that match who you are, you are outed every time you show an ID," Skeen said, "and this is what leads to the discrimination, harassment and violence that transgender people face."

Smith Puerto of Austin, who identifies as transgender and nonbinary, changed their Texas driver's license from female to male about a year ago. Puerto, 34, who works in client services at a tech company, has been training with their wife of five years to foster an LGBTQ teen and figured they had a better chance applying as a male, although there were risks.

"You definitely out yourself," by changing the documents, said Puerto, who has had surgery, takes hormones and said they often pass as male.

"In a state like Texas, you don't always want people to know you're different," Puerto said, calling the attorney general's inquiry "horrifying."

"It's scary to know what he would want to do with that data," they said.

Puerto, who moved to Texas from Ohio nine years ago, said they worry Paxton and other Republican leaders who have attacked the rights of transgender children are preparing to target transgender adults like them when the legislature reconvenes.

"It's a constant conversation between my wife and I," Puerto said. "Every session we hold our breath, kind of watching what horrendous bills get filed, and wonder how much longer can we stay here."

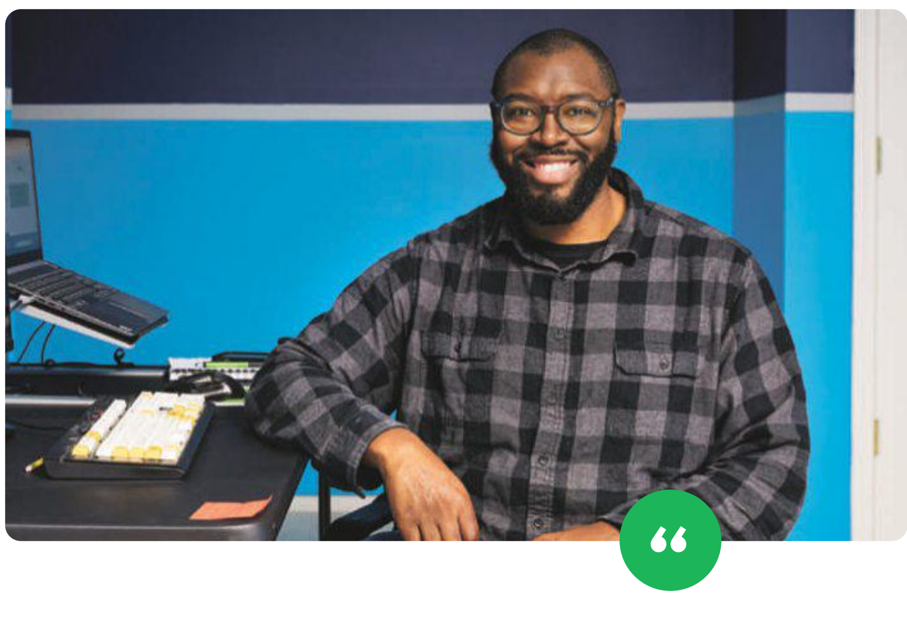
Salkeld Garcia, who also takes hormones and had gender confirmation surgery, demonstrated against anti-trans legislation at the Capitol last year and called the prospect of what lawmakers could do next year "very nerve-racking."

"In Austin we have a vibrant trans community, a beautiful queer community," she said. "But it's also scary, because it feels like you have a big fire burning all around you and you don't know where it will spread or if it will burn you."

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THE WORLD



EMILIO MORENATTI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Docuseries directs ire toward palace

Netflix has a hit, but renegade royals Harry and Meghan may not win much support in Britain

BY WILLIAM BOOTH AND KARLA ADAM

LONDON — The final three episodes of the "Harry & Meghan" documentary series on Netflix, released Thursday, claim palace operatives fed negative stories to the news media about Meghan to spare other members of the British royal family and to assuage family jealousy of the popular new Duchess of Sussex.

The accusations are sensational in the sense that Harry publicly accuses Prince William, his brother and heir to the throne, and his father, King Charles III, of allowing their staffs to proactively leak and conspire against the couple.

The reveals are complicated by the fact there is not much evidence presented in this one-sided documentary to support such charges.

Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace said they would have no comment.

What have Harry and Meghan won or lost in the Netflix series? They had complained that their version of the story had not been told before.

So now we have it, in six hours of documentary film, produced by the couple in partnership with the streaming giant, released to a global audience.

The renegade pair — who resigned as "senior working royals" in 2020 and moved to California — have told a strong story set against the nasty, negative British tabloids and the internet trolls who sought to monetize hate against Meghan.

Harry goes so far as to blame stress induced by the Daily Mail tabloid for causing his wife's miscarriage.

It is less clear whether their account will win them greater support — or have any impact on royals coverage in Britain or the institution of the monarchy.

With their unprecedented, direct challenges to Charles and William, they appear to be more open to burning bridges than to reconciling.

It is hard to see them returning to royal life in Britain. But who knows? As they assert, it is a long-running soap opera.

The new episodes allege a nasty game within the royal institution.

"I've certainly seen evidence that there was negative briefing from the palace against Harry and Meghan to suit other people's agendas," the couple's attorney, Jenny Afia, asserts — though she offers no proof.

The documentary recounts that a war between palace press offices culminated in a shouting match between the brothers at an emergency family summit, while Queen Elizabeth II quietly observed.

"The saddest part of it was the wedge created between me and my brother so that he's now on the institution's side, and part of me, I get that — that's his inheritance," Harry says in the documentary.

By the couple's account, the situation began to deteriorate after their tour to Australia and New Zealand.

"They were so popular, so popular with the public, that internals at the palace were incredibly threatened by that," Lucy Fraser, a friend of Meghan's, tells the filmmakers.

Harry says: "The issue is, when someone who is marrying in and should be a supporting act, is then stealing the limelight or doing the job better than the person who is born to do this, that upsets people, it shifts the balance."

The people around the family then feared that the new couple would destabilize the "power dynamics" inside the palace, and something had to be done, says James Holt, Harry and Meghan's former spokesman.

"The aim was to put them in a box or make them irrelevant," he says. "All of a sudden, these tabloid stories started to appear, criticizing Meghan for every little thing."



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOP: Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, left, along with Prince William and Catherine, leave Westminster Hall on Sept. 14. ABOVE: A pedestrian passes a London newsstand stocked with papers offering front-page coverage of the royals last year. In "Harry & Meghan," Harry says the process of supplying negative stories to counteract existing ones is known as "trading."

For her part, Meghan says: "You would just see it play out. Like a story about someone in the family would pop up for a minute and they would go: 'Got to make that go away.' But there's real estate on a website homepage, there's real estate there on a newspaper front cover, and something has to be filled in there about someone royal."

And that someone, Meghan suggests, was her.

She says the negative media coverage, combined with social media death threats, sent her into a dark place, to contemplate suicide. "I was like, all of this will stop if I'm not here. That was the scariest thing about it — it was such clear thinking."

Harry lays out how the dueling priorities of the palace's different press offices began to play out, with consequences for family relations. The process of supplying negative stories to counteract existing ones is known as "trading."

"If the comms team wants to remove a negative story about their principal, they will trade and give you [the press] something about someone else's principal, so the offices end up working against each other," he says. "William and I both saw what happened in our dad's office, and we made an agreement we would never let that happen to our office."

But, he said, soon his brother's press office was doing "the very same thing that we promised the two of us would never, ever do. That was heartbreaking."

Matters boiled over when Harry and Meghan proposed relocating to Canada but continuing to work on behalf of the queen — something "the institution" promptly leaked to the press, Harry says, forcing the disastrous emergency family summit at the Sandringham estate.

"It was terrifying to have my brother scream and shout at me and my father saying things that simply weren't true and my grandmother quietly sitting there and sort of take it all in," Harry says.

Afterward, Harry says, he was surprised by the release of a "joint statement," purportedly from himself and his brother, denying claims that William had bullied Harry into an exit.

"I couldn't believe it," Harry says. "No one had asked me. No one had asked me to put my name to a statement like that."

Harry says he called Meghan, who burst into "a flood of tears, because within four hours they [the palace] were happy to lie to protect my brother and yet for three years they were never willing to tell the truth to protect us."

That is presented as a tipping point.

"That's why I am now living in a different country, because all the comms teams try to outdo each other," Harry says.

Their ultimately successful battle against the Daily Mail is a major narrative in the final three episodes. "Do we absolutely know the miscarriage was caused by that? Of course we don't," Harry says. "Bearing in mind the stress that caused, the lack of sleep, and the timing of pregnancy, how many weeks in she was, I can say, from what I saw, that that miscarriage was created by what they tried to do to her."

While Harry says he misses family gatherings and much about Britain, "I can't be that angry, because I genuinely feel that I and we are exactly where we are supposed to be. We have made it to the other side."

The first few episodes of the series, at least, appeared to do little to change British minds about the royal renegades.

Some admire Harry and Meghan and appreciate their struggle, but many find them happy to exploit their remaining titles with little to sell but privileged grievance.

A YouGov poll found that 4 percent of British adults had a more positive view of the couple after the first three episodes, while 14 percent reported a more negative view. About 45 percent said their opinion hadn't changed.

But, of course, plenty of people have been watching. The series is Netflix's highest-viewed documentary ever, and it was the most-watched show in Britain over the past week. The latest run of "The Crown" was the No. 4 most popular show.

It's hard to escape how the documentary amplifies themes of Netflix's fictionalized account of the royal family's dramas and obligations.

At one point in the documentary, Harry says about his late grandmother, the queen: "You have to understand that from the family's perspective, especially from hers, there are ways of doing things, and her ultimate sort of mission, goal-slash-responsibility, is the institution."

In the end, if there's any undisputed winner in all this, it may be Netflix.

DIGEST

POLAND

Gift explodes at police headquarters

A gift that Poland's top police commander received during a recent visit to Ukraine exploded at national police headquarters in Warsaw, causing the commander and a civilian employee to suffer minor injuries, the Polish Interior Ministry said Thursday.

The explosion happened in a room next to the office of Gen. Jaroslaw Szymczyk on Wednesday morning, the ministry said. It did not specify what object the Polish commander had received during the working visit to Ukraine.

Szymczyk met with leaders of the Ukrainian police and emergency service on Sunday and Monday, the ministry said.

It said he has been in a hospital since Wednesday for observation; the civilian employee was not hospitalized.

Poland is an ally of Ukraine and has offered the neighboring country various kinds of support, including military and humanitarian aid, since Russia's full-scale invasion on Feb. 24.

— Associated Press

INDIA

Official: 31 dead after drinking tainted liquor

At least 31 people died and 20 others were hospitalized in serious condition after drinking tainted liquor sold without authorization in India, a top elected official said Thursday.

The deaths occurred Tuesday and Wednesday, and the victims belonged to three villages in the eastern Saran district of Bihar state where the manufacturing, sale and consumption of liquor are prohibited.

The deaths were reported in a district government-run hospital where the sick were brought by their families for treatment, said S.D. Sinha, the hospital chief.

Sale and consumption of liquor were banned in Bihar state in 2016 after women's groups campaigned against poor workers splurging their meager incomes on drinking.

Police officer Santosh Kumar said several of the 20 hospitalized have lost their eyesight.

Several opposition parties, including the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, held protests Thursday outside the state legislature building to demand the state's liquor ban be scrapped and compensation provided to bereaved families.

— Associated Press



MENAHEM KAHANA/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

A man carries a child and a balloon at a Christmas market in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's old city during the Advent season ahead of Christmas. According to a 2020 estimate, around 2 percent of the population in Israel is Christian while the majority, at 74 percent, is Jewish. According to the Times of Israel, Christmas is usually peak season for tourism in Bethlehem, and tourist numbers are rising after two years of pandemic uncertainty.

TURKEY

Thousands protest mayor's conviction

Thousands of people rallied in Turkey on Thursday to oppose the conviction and political ban of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, chanting slogans criticizing Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his ruling Justice and Development Party.

A Turkish court on Wednesday sentenced Imamoglu, a popular rival to Erdogan, to two years and seven months in prison, which, like the ban, must be confirmed by an appeals court.

The verdict drew wide criticism at home and abroad as an abuse of democracy.

Imamoglu was convicted of insulting public officials in a speech after he won Istanbul's election in 2019. Critics say Turkish courts bend to Erdogan's will. The government says the judiciary is independent.

The six-party opposition alliance formed against Erdogan, led by Imamoglu's Republican People's Party, has yet to agree on a presidential candidate. Imamoglu has been seen as a possible challenger, and polls suggest he would defeat Erdogan.

The court ruling, if upheld, would bar him from running.

— Reuters

E.U. formalizes eastern nation to join bloc: European Union leaders agreed on Thursday to make Bosnia a formal candidate to join the bloc of 27 nations. General affairs ministers of the E.U. countries had already agreed on the candidate status for Bosnia earlier this week. It will be joining other E.U. candidates — Albania, Moldova, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey and Ukraine — in the process to join the European Union.

Slovakian government loses no-confidence vote: Slovakia's minority government lost a no-confidence vote in parliament on Thursday despite last-ditch efforts to gain support. The move raises fears of political instability in the country as it seeks ways to battle soaring energy prices. The no-confidence motion was passed by 78 lawmakers in the 150-seat parliament.

China starts chips trade dispute: China has officially launched a trade dispute at the World Trade Organization against the United States, challenging Washington's chip export curbs, the WTO said on Thursday. China's commerce ministry said this week that U.S. curbs "threatened the stability of the global industrial supply chains."

— From wire reports

INSPIRED LIFE

Nigerian chess prodigy, family granted asylum

Child champion won breakout competition while homeless in N.Y.

BY SYDNEY PAGE



COURTESY OF KAYODE ADEWUMI

Tanitoluwa "Tani" Adewumi, 12, has won numerous chess competitions and was named a National Master at age 10. The child prodigy and his family fled Nigeria in 2017 to escape religious persecution.

Tanitoluwa "Tani" Adewumi rose to sudden stardom at age 8 for his striking chess skills: He beat 73 opponents and clinched the New York state chess championship for his division. At the time, in 2019, he was living with his family in a homeless shelter.

They had moved to New York from Nigeria in 2017, seeking religious asylum after the family, devoutly Christian, was threatened by the terrorist group Boko Haram and forced to flee their country.

Since Tani's breakout state championship, his trophies have multiplied. At 10, he was named a National Master, and his current title is FIDE Master, a prestigious designation awarded by the international chess governing body. Along with his chess accolades, his life story became the subject of a book.

But Tani, now 12, just won perhaps his most pivotal feat: He and his family were officially granted asylum in the United States.

"It feels amazing, because it's been such a long journey," said Tani, whose older brother showed him a game similar to chess, and he quickly mastered chess when he learned how to play in elementary school. "I'm just grateful that we've gotten this opportunity."

"We feel so relieved," said Tani's father, Kayode Adewumi. "Everybody is so happy."

While the news is thrilling for the whole family, it is especially exciting for Tani, whose chess career was somewhat stalled because of his pending asylum application. Until now, he has not been able to travel to tournaments abroad — stifling his ability to reach his ultimate goal of becoming a Grandmaster.

"That was a very big challenge for him," Adewumi said.

Matthew Ingber, part of the legal team that worked pro bono on the Adewumi family's asylum case, said he first learned about Tani's situation in the summer of 2021.

"It was such a compelling story," said Ingber, a managing partner at Mayer Brown's New York office.

Despite Tani's unexpected fame, life has been far from easy for his family — including his parents, Kayode and Oluwatoyin Adewumi, and his brother, Adesina Austin, 19.

The asylum process, the Adewumis learned, can be long and arduous — and sometimes frightening.

"It was a little bit scary," said Adewumi, who first worked as a dishwasher and an Uber driver upon moving to America and is now a real estate salesman at Douglas Elliman. The family is no longer homeless and lives in an apartment in New York City.

Adewumi and his wife feared their asylum application would be rejected and they would be sent back to Nigeria — a prospect that terrified them, he said.

Ingber assembled a team from Mayer Brown to work on the case, including lawyers Justin Perkins and Christopher Mikesh.

"This is not just a story about 8-year-old Tani," Mikesh said. "It's also a story about a family who came to the United States with very little and did everything they possibly could to make a life for themselves here."

"It's truly inspiring what the family has accomplished," he added. "To even be a small part of their story is really an honor for us."

Working alongside attorney Carolina Curbelo, who was already representing the Adewumi family, Mayer Brown became formally involved in the case in early 2022.

The family applied for asylum in 2019 and had an upcoming hearing date. Still, "there was a lot of uncertainty going into this process," Mikesh said.

"There is always risk associated with any trial," echoed Ingber, adding that deportation is "always a risk when you're dealing in these types of asylum cases."

Ahead of the formal immigration hearing, the lawyers aimed to explore alternative options that would "help the family speed up the process and ensure that they got a favorable outcome," Mikesh said. "What we thought would be a better idea is to try to convince the government that this case really was open-and-shut, and there was no real question that our clients deserved asylum."

They submitted documents listing the reasons the family was worthy of asylum to the Department of Homeland Security.

"They're active members of their church, of their community, of their school. They really are a paradigm case for granting asylum," Ingber explained. "They are contributing in ways that should make us all feel very proud to have them as part of our country."

The papers took time to move through the system, but before long, there was progress — and it was promising. At an initial hearing in July, an immigration judge indicated that the case would go forward.

"I was just happy in that moment," said Tani, now in the seventh grade. "I was screaming and shouting."

The final order of asylum was issued in October, and the family received their asylum cards on Nov. 30.

"It is, in effect, their license to remain in the United States. It allows them to travel internationally," Ingber said. "It's their path to the freedom that they wanted."

"It's impossible to overstate how impactful this was for the family," he said. "They don't feel entitled to it; they feel privileged to be here."

Indeed, Adewumi said, "we are really thankful for everything," including the people who contributed funds over the years to support them. The outpouring of kindness prompted the family to launch a foundation in 2020 aimed at helping other refugees and homeless people.

"We really appreciate everything the Americans have done for us," Adewumi said. "We feel so welcome."

He said his family will apply for permanent residency in about a year.

Tani, for his part, is elated to finally feel at home and is more motivated than ever to reach his goal of earning the Grandmaster title — the highest designation in chess, aside from World Champion.

"I know I will do it, and I know it will happen," he said. "The future is bright. It's full of color and good things."

WHO chief: Eritrean troops 'murdered' uncle

BY VICTORIA BISSET

The head of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said Wednesday that his uncle was "murdered" by Eritrean forces in Ethiopia's restive province of Tigray.

Speaking at the end of a news conference in Geneva about covid-19, Tedros said he had considered canceling the conference because he was "not in good shape" after recently learning of the death of his uncle. "They killed him in his home," he said, adding that "more than 50 people were killed" in the same village and describing the killings as "just arbitrary."

Tedros gave no further details about the timing or location of the alleged killings, and Eritrean and Ethiopian officials did not immediately comment on his allegations.

Tedros, an ethnic Tigrayan who previously served as Ethiopia's foreign minister and health minister, has frequently spoken out about the conflict in Tigray, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives and left more than 350,000 people facing famine.

He has come under attack from Ethiopian officials, who have said he should step down from the WHO. They have accused him of seeking to procure weapons for the Tigray region — claims Tedros has denied.

In August, Tedros described the crisis in Tigray as "the worst disaster on Earth" and questioned whether the lack of a stronger global response was due to "the color of the skin of the people in Tigray." Ethiopia's government denounced Tedros's statements as "unbecoming of such a high-profile position."

In his comments Wednesday, Tedros told journalists: "I spoke to my mother, and she was really devastated, because he was the youngest from their family and he was almost same age with me — a young uncle."

"I hope the peace agreement will hold and this madness will stop, but it's just a very difficult moment for me," he continued.

Asked on the sidelines of the news conference for more details, Tedros said he grew up with the uncle but did not give the location.

He said he feared that the villagers would face retaliation, Reuters reported.

A Nov. 2 cease-fire aimed to end two years of bloody conflict, which broke out in late 2020 when the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) captured a number of military bases in the region, amid deteriorating relations with the central government. The TPLF was a key player in Ethiopian politics until Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power in 2018.

Under the 2022 deal, Tigrayan forces pledged to disarm and not provide any support to any other armed group in Ethiopia. The government, in turn, was to guarantee no "foreign incursion" — in what was widely believed to be a reference to the withdrawal of Eritrean troops — and to once again recognize the TPLF as a political party.

The truce also included provisions for unhindered access for humanitarian aid and a resumption of communications in the region, where phone and internet connections were cut off since the beginning of the conflict.

However, forces allied to the Ethiopian armed forces, including the Eritrean army and a militia from the Amhara region of Ethiopia, were not parties to the cease-fire.

Eritrea shares a border with Tigray and has supported Ethiopia's central government in the Tigrayan conflict. The Eritrean government has been a longtime enemy of the TPLF, with President Isaias Afwerki seeing the TPLF leadership as an existential threat.

According to a Reuters report earlier his month, witnesses and aid workers reported that Ethiopia's allies continued to carry out extrajudicial killings and mass arrests in areas under their control after the cease-fire took effect.

A joint report issued last year by the United Nations and Ethiopia's state-appointed human rights commission found that all sides had carried out human rights violations, but it blamed some of the worst crimes on Eritrean forces. Eritrea has rejected accusations of involvement in war crimes.

Katharine Houreld contributed to this report.

Irish peacekeeper killed in Lebanon

U.N. convoy comes under small-arms fire on its way to Beirut

BY SARAH DADOUCH



AZIZ TAHER/REUTERS

A Lebanese army member and United Nations peacekeepers with their vehicles in south Lebanon on Thursday.

BEIRUT — An Irish soldier with the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Lebanon was killed on Wednesday night during "a serious incident" when his armored vehicle came under small-arms fire, Ireland's Defense Ministry said.

A convoy of two vehicles carrying eight personnel from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), a mission set up in 1978 to monitor the border between Lebanon and Israel, was heading north to the airport in the capital Beirut.

According to UNIFIL's statement Thursday, one vehicle ended up in al-Aaqibiyeh, a village south of the coastal city of Sidon, which lies just outside the mission's area of operations in south Lebanon.

The details of the attack are "sparse and conflicting" the statement said, adding that it is coordinating with the Lebanese Armed Forces and has launched an investigation into the incident. After expressing condolences, it added, "our thoughts are also with the local civilians who may have been injured or frightened in the incident."

One video circulating on social media showed a white vehicle affixed with a UNIFIL number plate lying on its side, its back window smashed. In the short video, a man in fatigues is on the ground, moving his torso and arms slowly in a dazed manner. Behind the vehicle is a store's half-destroyed shutters.

Another video purportedly from the village overnight showed a white vehicle emerge from a throng of cars, as gunshots can be heard and sparks appear to emanate from the back of the car. The videos could not be independently verified.

Ireland's defense forces said the four personnel were taken to a hospital near Sidon, where one soldier was pronounced dead on arrival, and another had undergone surgery and is in serious condition. The other two are being treated for minor injuries.

Simon Coveney, Ireland's minister of defense and of foreign affairs, said in his own statement that he will be meeting with the U.N. secretary general "to discuss the loss of our peacekeeper and the full investigation that must now follow."

Stéphane Dujarric, the spokesman for the U.N. secretary general, said: "He urges a swift investigation by relevant authorities to determine the facts related to the incident and the need for accountability."

The last fatal attack on UNIFIL peacekeeping personnel was in 2007, when six Spanish peacekeepers were killed in a bomb close to the Lebanese-Israeli border. No one claimed the attack, which took place a year after the month-long 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, the country's strongest political party and most powerful armed force.

The 2006 conflict killed at least 1,100 Lebanese, the vast majority civilians, Human Rights Watch estimated. Following the war, the U.N. Security Council significantly boosted UNIFIL's numbers, from about 2,000 to 15,000 military personnel, and expanded its original mandate.

There have been sporadic attacks on troops in the years since, though most have been minor.

Al-Akhbar, a newspaper closely affiliated with Hezbollah which often publishes leaks sanctioned by the group, said according to its preliminary information, a group of young men from the area tracked a vehicle that took the seaside road, noting the atypical route for UNIFIL vehicles that usually take the highway.

The men, allegedly alarmed at seeing the vehicle operating late and outside UNIFIL areas of operation, tried to stop it. The driver refused and then drove over one of the men's feet when attempting to leave, angering those who had surrounded the vehicle.

The details of what followed are murkier: Bullets came from an unidentified source, the paper said, causing the car to drive off quickly before striking a shop.





PHOTOS BY SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST

To prosecutor, mass death wasn't an accident, but a crime

CARTEL FROM A1

monoxide and ruled that out.

A partly empty Crown Royal whisky bottle stood on the kitchen counter among plastic cups, empty shot glasses and cut orange straws. In the middle was a mirrored tray with lines of white powder. A red heart-shaped balloon floated above, tied by a string to a bouquet, remnants of Valentine's Day the week before. In the center of the room was an empty baby swing.

The first police officer on the scene, a mother herself, had found a crying 4-month-old baby girl in a pink bassinet in another room. She had been alone for nearly 12 hours. She was one of seven children who lost a parent that night.

Not everyone at the party had died, Matzke told Mason. The police officer had found a disoriented woman inside. At first, the woman tried to shield the white powder and told the officer she and her friends had all just fallen asleep.

"We took cocaine, and that's it," she mumbled before she was taken to a hospital.

But that wasn't correct.

A gloved investigator sealed the white powder into plastic bags and scanned them with a handheld laser tool called TruNarc. Mason watched, fascinated. He had never heard of TruNarc, let alone seen it in action. The $30,000 device compared the substance with nearly 500 possible drugs.

The small orange screen flashed the word "Fentanyl."

Exactly what Mason had feared. He had been warning people for months about deadly fentanyl mixed into recreational drugs.

The powerful, intensely addictive opioid has unleashed the most lethal narcotics crisis in U.S. history. Deaths caused by the drug are officially recorded as overdoses, but to Mason, that did not capture what really happened in Apt. 307.

It was a poisoning, he thought.

More than 107,000 people died in the United States last year by overdosing on illegal drugs. That is the country's highest figure ever, and two-thirds of the deaths were attributed to fentanyl. Fentanyl deaths have nearly doubled since 2019.

Some of the dead had sought out the drug and used too much of it, but many others, like the five in Commerce City, had no idea that they were taking something that would kill them with the speed of cyanide.

Fentanyl is up to 50 times as powerful as heroin, putting users on a razor's edge between intense pleasure — the high — and mortal peril. Under proper medical supervision, it is extremely effective for treating severe pain because of its ability to depress the central nervous system. But when too much fentanyl hits the bloodstream, it can quickly trigger respiratory failure and cardiac arrest.

The Denver area was becoming a transportation hub for the synthetic opioid. Mason had been briefed by the police and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration that Mexican cartels were sending massive amounts of fentanyl, either mixed into counterfeit pain pills or in powdered form, across the southwestern U.S. border.

From there, drug dealers moved the fentanyl through Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas and into Colorado, where two large interstate highways converge. The loads were then smuggled to Chicago and out across the country. Police were finding fentanyl in cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine.

Last December, Mason gave a speech with the Colorado attorney general warning about the terrifying new threat. "Fentanyl is killing our kids," Mason said.

Cartel RX

In a seven-part investigation, The Washington Post followed the fentanyl epidemic from Mexican labs to U.S. streets.

Jorge Ribas reported from Colorado on the efforts to find out who was responsible after five friends died of fentanyl poisoning. Watch the video at *wapo.st/cartel-colorado.*

Find a visual overview online at *wapo.st/cartelrx.*

ABOVE: Debby Garcia with granddaughter Aria, who lost her parents, Karina Joy Rodriguez and Sabas "Sam" Daniel Marquez, in Apt. 307. Aria was left alone in the apartment for 12 hours. BELOW: For Brian Mason, who had become district attorney just the year before, the case was his first big test of leadership. In seeking a state law that would make "distribution of fentanyl causing death" a crime, he called what happened in Commerce City "a challenging example and a powerful example of how much fentanyl is ravaging this state."

Then, on the Sunday of Presidents' Day weekend, the nation's largest-known mass fentanyl poisoning hit his own district.

Mason left the apartment and walked back downstairs to a huddle of police officials. The parking lot of the North Range Crossings apartment complex was closed off with yellow tape and awash with flashing red lights and dozens of police officers, firefighters and crime scene technicians. Officers were trying to hold back neighbors and distraught family members crying and demanding to know what had happened.

Mason looked over at the reporters behind the yellow tape. He walked toward the glow of the lights readied for the 10 p.m. live newscast.

As a prosecutor for 15 years, Mason had made it a rule not to talk to the news media this early in an investigation. But tonight was different.

Mason, a father of three, was terrified. How much more of this bad batch of drugs was out there? he wondered. How many more people were going to die tonight?

"No drug is safe right now," he told the reporters. "People who are taking drugs and not knowing that fentanyl is laced within them are dying. And tonight, tragically, it appears that five of our fellow citizens died because of it."

As he turned away from the cameras, his mind pivoted back to the apartment. Who had sold them the drugs? If investigators found the dealer, could they prove that the person had intentionally added fentanyl? Did the dealer even know it was in the cocaine?

So much felt unknown to Mason that night. But he was sure of one thing: These deaths were not a blameless accident. They were a crime.

'We'll find them'

At a meeting of local and federal investigators a week later, Mason learned more about the five people who died in Apt. 307. On a screen, police shared a detailed timeline and what they knew about the victims.

The five were good friends who had gathered for a small party late at night. The hosts were Sabas "Sam" Daniel Marquez and Karina Joy Rodriguez, both in their 20s, who lived with their 4-month-old baby, Aria. Sam and Karina had gone to dinner with his sister, Cora Marquez, 29, and her husband, Humberto Arroyo Ledezma, 32, and invited them over afterward. Two friends from Karina's waitressing job at Mickey's Top Sirloin steakhouse, Jennifer Danielle Cunningham, 32, and Stephine Monroe, 29, joined them in the apartment.

From everything the detectives could piece together in the first days, no one at the party had meant to buy fentanyl. Whoever brought what they thought was just cocaine into the apartment had meant to share it for an evening of fun with friends. There was so much fentanyl in the white powder that the drug-testing device did not initially detect cocaine. By snorting the drug commonly sold in counterfeit pill form, the group ingested the fentanyl in one of the most dangerous ways, because it hit the bloodstream faster.

The drug has challenged police and emergency responders as no other illegal narcotic has. A higher-potency batch can rapidly trigger a wave of overdoses, sending authorities racing to administer the opioid antidote naloxone, which can bring victims back from the brink of death. But fentanyl often kills before paramedics can arrive, especially in the case of users with no built-up tolerance for opioids.

Mason and the investigators





SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST

A rainstorm rolls in over Commerce City in September. The impact of the mass death was lasting for the area on the front range of the Rockies. Denver authorities reported a sharp increase in requests for the opioid reversal drug naloxone. And first responders struggled with what they had seen in Apt. 307. The former Commerce City police chief said that in his nearly 31 years in law enforcement he had never seen anything so horrific.

knew that on Jan. 28, in another fentanyl poisoning, authorities had linked a string of deaths in D.C. to a bad batch of cocaine. The District's police chief would later call the overdoses "probably the worst I've heard of." In St. Louis, paramedics had returned again and again over a February weekend to an apartment complex where 11 people overdosed and eight died. All had smoked crack cocaine laced with fentanyl.

There would be more fentanyl mass poisonings in the next two months — at least seven separate instances resulting in 58 overdoses and 29 deaths. The drug is disproportionately killing Black people and Native Americans. In Cortez, Colo., three Native Americans died in a motel room. During spring break in South Florida, six young men, including five cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, overdosed but survived. Over an April weekend, 17 Black people in two D.C. neighborhoods overdosed, and 10 of them died.

The sheriff in Gadsden County, Fla., said that fentanyl "was not in my vocabulary" until police linked fentanyl-laced cocaine to at least six deaths and 10 nonfatal overdoses over a couple of days in July. "It hit us like a ton of bricks," said Sheriff Morris Young.

Many of these people had used what they thought was cocaine or crack, authorities said. A Washington Post analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that in 2021, fentanyl was involved in 74 percent of heroin deaths, 71 percent of cocaine deaths and 54 percent of meth deaths. In fact, yearly cocaine fatalities over the past decade have quintupled, and 90 percent of that rise can be explained by fentanyl.

Law enforcement officials think many more mass poisonings have not been counted. But the U.S. government does not track mass-overdose events — not the DEA, the CDC or the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

As Mason listened to the investigators, he wondered why someone had put fentanyl in the cocaine used at the party.

Mason was often asked that question. In his many meetings with drug agents, he learned that dealers have been taking advantage of fentanyl powder's cheap abundance and supreme potency to "spike" their cocaine, heroin and meth. The drug allows them to deliver a more powerful high and keep addicted clients coming back for more.

Counterfeit pills that have caused deaths are sometimes called "kill pills" or "hot pills." Customers who can tolerate opioids often seek out the dealers who can deliver the more powerful high.

But in some cases, street dealers do not even know that fentanyl is in the cocaine they are selling. And the recipe is not consistent; like the distribution of chocolate chips in cookies, some of the mixed drugs have more fentanyl than others.

At the end of the hour-long presentation, Mason looked around at all the police brass. He was hopeful. The federal officials had said they would contribute any forensic resources investigators needed. Police detectives already had several promising leads.

"We'll find them," David Olesky, then the acting assistant special agent in charge of the DEA's Denver division, confidently told a local TV reporter.

This was the first big test of leadership for Mason, who just the year before at 44 had become the elected district attorney — the chief law enforcement official for Colorado's 17th Judicial District. He had political ambitions. Mason, the son of an Air Force captain, had decorated his childhood bedroom not with sports stars but with posters of former U.S. presidents. After college, he got a job as a legislative aide in the Clinton White House and worked as a staffer for a Democratic congressman. His district attorney's office displays photos of him with four presidents, along with models of Air Force One and Marine One.

Mason's twin brother, Jeff, had become a prominent White House reporter in Washington. And from his own time in the nation's capital, Mason knew how important it was for federal agencies to focus their attention and resources on a local case like this. He felt pressure to find those responsible for the five deaths and provide justice for the victims' families.

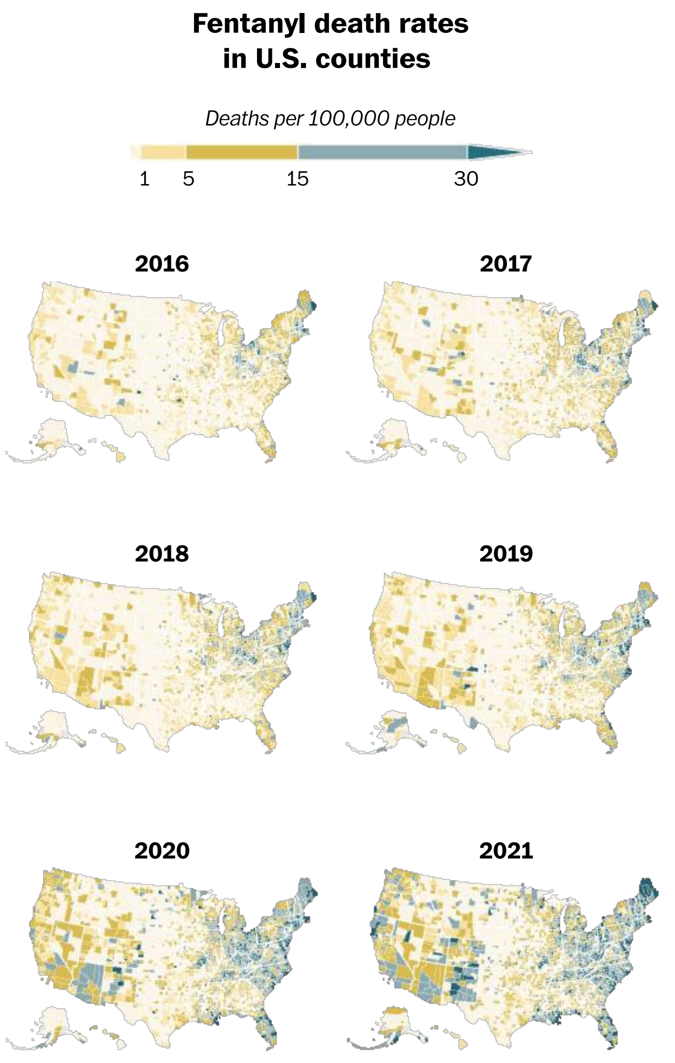
Success in the Commerce City fentanyl case could raise awareness of the drug's alarming dangers — and put Mason in the center of the national campaign.

Exhaustive investigation

Over the next weeks and months, Mason worked closely with the investigators, who traced the movements of everyone in that apartment in the two days before they died.

Mason learned that a camera on a neighbor's doorbell had recorded when each person walked into Apt. 307 between 1 and 2 a.m. on Feb. 20. Investigators didn't know precisely when they died. But they knew that they all fell to the ground suddenly — so quickly that no one had a chance to reach for their nearby cellphones.

About 12 hours later, Celina Fisher arrived at the apartment to check on her brother, Sam Marquez, because he wasn't answering his phone. No one answered the door, which was unlocked.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

JÚLIA LEDUR/THE WASHINGTON POST

Methodology

The Post analyzed data from a range of sources to measure the rise of fentanyl in the United States and Mexico. Among other topics, reporters compiled data on drug seizures, overdose deaths and reversals, border crossings and fentanyl potency.

The data was collected from more than three dozen federal, state and local sources across the United States and Mexico. For example, for the count of overdose deaths in the United States, The Post used mortality data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To measure data seizures along Route 15 in Mexico, reporters standardized multiple datasets from agencies including the Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional, Fiscalía General de la República, Secretaría de Marina and the Guardia Nacional.

Reporters made open-records requests in both countries, retrieved data from government websites to create data sets and obtained and analyzed seizure data from High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, run by the White House's drug czar, by submitting a detailed research proposal to gain access.

She stepped inside and screamed. Her brother was lifeless on the floor near the door.

Jennifer and Stephine lay on the floor on either side of the kitchen counter. On the surface were alcohol and lines of white powder.

On the couch, Sam's partner, Karina, was slumped on top of her brother-in-law, Humberto.

Celina's stepsister, Cora, was alive but dazed. She stirred. "We're okay," she told Celina as she was coming out of a stupor. "We're okay."

At first, Celina didn't notice her brother's 4-month-old baby in her bassinet. She was behind a closed door to the master bedroom.

Celina ran to her brother, yelling his name, trying to wake him. She pulled out a canister of the naloxone spray Narcan. She carried the overdose antidote because she had used opioids before and was aware of the dangers. She pushed the white tube up his bloodied nose, squeezing the medicine. But he was already cold to the touch. She left him and went around the room, shouting at the others, trying to wake them. No one moved. Celina called 911 at 3:37 p.m.

"There's one, two, three, four, five people!" Celina shouted into the phone.

When the police arrived, Cora told them her husband, Humberto, was diabetic and needed medicine, not realizing he was dead. They ushered Cora and her baby niece into ambulances. Crime scene technicians spent the next 12 hours collecting evidence at the apartment. Detectives executed 10 search warrants for the phones, cars and homes of each person in Apt. 307.

They searched the GPS history on the victims' phones to determine where they had been. They pulled together hundreds of hours of videos from surveillance cameras that covered the victims' workplaces, homes, a bar where two of them had gone beforehand and the apartment where the five died. They read their texts and examined their call records. They scrutinized every detail in their lives — including the money and keys in their pockets and purses and the people in their social media networks.

One of the phones could not be cracked. It belonged to Jennifer, a manager at Mickey's. Friends and relatives told police they didn't know the password.

Investigators tested the baggies of white powder and examined the packaging for fingerprints and DNA. They analyzed the quantity and toxicity of the drugs found in the apartment.

Nationwide, the DEA has found that the potency of pills with fentanyl has increased in samples taken over the years, from 1.3 milligrams per pill in 2017 to 2.34 so far this year — just above the lethal dose. It is a sign the nation's opioid tolerance is going up. The cartels are boosting the potency of their fentanyl pills because habituated opioid users want the higher doses. Those who do not frequently use opioids or have never taken them are most at risk of being killed by the stronger drugs.

Autopsies conducted on the five found marijuana, alcohol, cocaine and fentanyl in their blood. The amount of the synthetic opioid in their systems was far more than a lethal dose. Fentanyl reduces blood pressure and slows breathing, and fluid fills the lungs. Lack of oxygen turns fingertips and lips blue or purple and damages the brain. As the heart rate drops, blood seeps from the nose and mouth along with a white foam.

The investigators set up an anonymous tip line to identify suspects. They offered a reward for any information about fentanyl distribution in the area.

Two months in, Mason studied the scattering of evidence that police had gathered. There were the drugs: Police had the white powder found on the kitchen counter. They also found three baggies of cocaine in the apartment — two on the kitchen counter and one in a purse. Two bags were laced with fentanyl, one was not, Commerce City Police said. One was older and had accidentally been washed in the laundry, making it even more difficult to determine who could have sold it.

Detectives had narrowed their focus to three "people of interest" in the area who could have been the source of the drugs. But which of those three was connected to a bag that contained fentanyl?

Text messages showed that Jennifer, Stephine and Karina had met up earlier at Jennifer's house and shared cocaine. The group then separated: Jennifer and Stephine went to a bar together, and Karina returned to Apt. 307, where she and her partner, Sam, would host the others. About midnight, Karina sent a text to the women at the bar asking if they could get more cocaine. If not, she said, they should come over for a drink anyhow. Stephine replied, saying that Jennifer had a bag she found in her laundry. They told Karina they were trying to get some more and mentioned the names of two people they could ask. But no text message indicated that they managed to find cocaine from a specific source.

Detectives weren't getting the break they needed. Two potential suspects denied responsibility; the third had died in the apartment. One man police questioned said that he did sell cocaine to someone connected to the party the night before, but that his powder did not have fentanyl in it

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CARTEL RX | FENTANYL'S DEADLY SURGE



SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST

Derron Reed, seen with daughter Kendall, 4, at a football practice for son Ezra, 10, has struggled with what to tell his children about the death of their mother, Stephine Monroe. He told his son that adults sometimes do things to relieve stress that children should not do. "She was just having fun. She didn't take her own life," he said. "She was poisoned."

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

because he and his brother had sampled it and would have died.

Cora, the sole survivor, cooperated with police but did not provide any information that could help them trace the source of the fentanyl.

Mason's case was becoming a messy, forensic jigsaw puzzle.

Prosecuting fentanyl dealers

Even if investigators could make the connection, Colorado did not have a charge for "distribution of fentanyl causing death." First-degree homicide was off the table because the charge required that the dealer intended to kill the customers — and there was no evidence of that so far. Without being able to tie anyone to the drugs in the apartment, Mason wasn't even going to be able to bring a misdemeanor charge.

This was a huge case, with shattered family members pleading with Mason to do something. Legislators already had been looking at stronger laws, and the horror of the Commerce City deaths created new momentum.

Even as the details of Mason's prosecution case remained cloudy, the political urgency was clear.

For Mason, the case was a platform to advocate for harsher penalties for future fentanyl crimes.

In mid-April, he sat before a packed hearing room inside the gold-domed Colorado Capitol in Denver to argue his case for legislation that would make distribution of fentanyl causing death a crime in Colorado. At least 23 states and Congress have passed similar legislation, increasing penalties for dealers whose drugs kill users.

He felt the tension in the room. Several legislators and activists were fighting the bill because they thought it furthered the failed war on drugs, targeting people of color and sending people struggling with addiction to prison rather than providing them treatment.

"As most of you surely know, just a few months ago, we lost five people in one single incident of fentanyl poisoning in Commerce City. And at the time, it was the single largest number of deaths from fentanyl poisoning in the country," Mason said. "I knew then and predicted then that we would not keep that record for long, and we haven't. But it is a challenging example and a powerful example of how much fentanyl is ravaging this state."

Later in the hearing, Karina's sisters, Feliz Sánchez García and Mileiah Rodriguez, testified.

Karina's sisters and her mother, Debby Garcia, were still mourning Karina's death — and caring for her baby girl, Aria, who had been left alone for 12 hours in Apt. 307. They were struggling to comfort Karina's 10-year-old son, Josiah, who lived with his father.

Feliz vividly remembered the cold night she waited at the edge of the police perimeter for news about her sister. She had spotted an officer who seemed to be in charge. People were shouting at him, trying to find out what happened.

Maybe if I just ask nicely, he'll say my sister is alive, she thought.

Now a photo of Karina's smiling face was pinned to her sweater as she sat beside her sister Mileiah in the statehouse hearing room.

The sisters said they hoped their prepared remarks, read from their cellphones, would finally correct the false impression in news reports that their sister was an irresponsible mother addicted to drugs. They feared what their niece and nephew might read online about their mother when they grew up.

"Four month-old girl orphaned after her mom and dad took her to drug-fueled house party in Colorado where they died after taking 'fentanyl-laced cocaine,' " one headline had read.

They testified that their sister was not a regular drug user. She had been devoted to the baby girl she had always wanted, Feliz said. She didn't use drugs while she was pregnant, nor while she was breastfeeding. Karina spent most nights at home, because she didn't want to leave her baby with anyone else.

"She didn't have a drug problem, but she decided to have a little fun one night," Mileiah, the other sister, testified through tears. "And she was poisoned. Even if she did decide to use cocaine that night, she didn't deserve to die. She was murdered."

"She was not a person who struggled with addiction," added Feliz. "She said in the weeks before her death that she was the happiest she had ever been."

Mason listened to the sisters with rapt attention. Up to this point, he had avoided interacting with any of the victims' relatives because he knew that investigators were interviewing family members to determine whether any of them might be linked to the drugs.

As Mason watched the sisters testify, he decided he wanted to meet them.

Mason approached them in the hallway outside the hearing. He hugged them.

"I am so sorry for your loss," he said as they wept.

The hearing lasted 12 hours, and legislators passed the bill in May.

Mason joined Colorado Gov. Jared Polis (D) on the steps of the Capitol as Polis signed the fentanyl law. Karina's family and other victims' relatives stood behind him, holding up photos of loved ones who had been killed by fentanyl.

Feliz and another family member read off the names of 23 people killed by fentanyl whose families had attended the hearing.

"They all had names, and they'll never be forgotten," she said.

Mason embraced Feliz. Her testimony had been critical to the bill's passage. But the district attorney could not use the newly created charge retroactively in her sister's case.

"No one should die from fentanyl poisoning," Mason said from the lectern. "This bill is a start."

As she left the Capitol that day, Feliz wondered when Mason would hold a big news conference to announce that he was charging a drug dealer with murder for the deaths of her sister and the four others.

Haunted

Two months later, on July 27, Mason gathered the federal and local investigators in his office's law library. He went around the table and asked each of them what evidence had been gathered and whether there were any developments.

When they finished, he had one final question: "So what you all are telling me is that we don't have the evidence right now to charge this crime?"

They all said yes.

On Sept. 14, Mason gave the news conference he had long dreaded. Flanked by the deputy U.S. attorney in Colorado, J. Chris Larson, and Commerce City Police Commander Dennis Flynn, Mason looked glum.

"Five residents of our community died from fentanyl poisoning in what was one of the largest mass incidents of this nature in the United States," he began. "Since that time, we have had a multiagency, massive investigation into their deaths."

"As of this moment today, we do not have the evidence to charge anyone with these deaths," he said.

For now, the Commerce City case was cold.

"I genuinely hope that someday we will be able to find and hold accountable those who are responsible," he said. "But, based on the evidence that we have today, we do not have the ability to charge anyone today. And I do not know that we ever will."

Karina's sister Mileiah was watching Mason's news conference on Facebook at the doctor's office where she worked. Mason had already alerted her family, but she still couldn't believe what he was saying.

"As a family member, we're extremely disappointed," she immediately wrote on Facebook.

Derron Reed, the partner of Stephine, could not even watch Mason's news conference. He had been frustrated and angry over the pace of the investigation all along. And now, after six months, the police had no answers. How was he ever going to explain to their two children, 10-year-old Ezra and 4-year-old Kendall, that their mother had been killed and that no one was going to be punished?

Amid the grief of losing his partner of 15 years, Derron had been struggling to help his children make sense of their mother's death. He told his son that adults sometimes did things to relieve stress that children should not do.

"She was just having fun. She didn't take her own life," he said. "She was poisoned."

The investigation had faded, but the impact on Commerce City was lasting. Denver authorities reported a sharp increase in requests for the opioid reversal drug naloxone. The grisly image of five dead men and women flashed back into the mind of the first police officer on the scene every time she drove by the apartment complex. A police trainee was so traumatized by what he had seen that he quit the force. The former Commerce City police chief said that in his nearly 31 years in law enforcement he had never seen anything so horrific.

Celina Fisher, who had found her brother and the others dead in Apt. 307, struggled with the trauma. Her substance abuse worsened, according to a relative.

On Halloween night, Celina was found unconscious in a park. She was rushed to a hospital and died the next day. The medical examiner listed alcohol and methamphetamine toxicity as the cause of death.

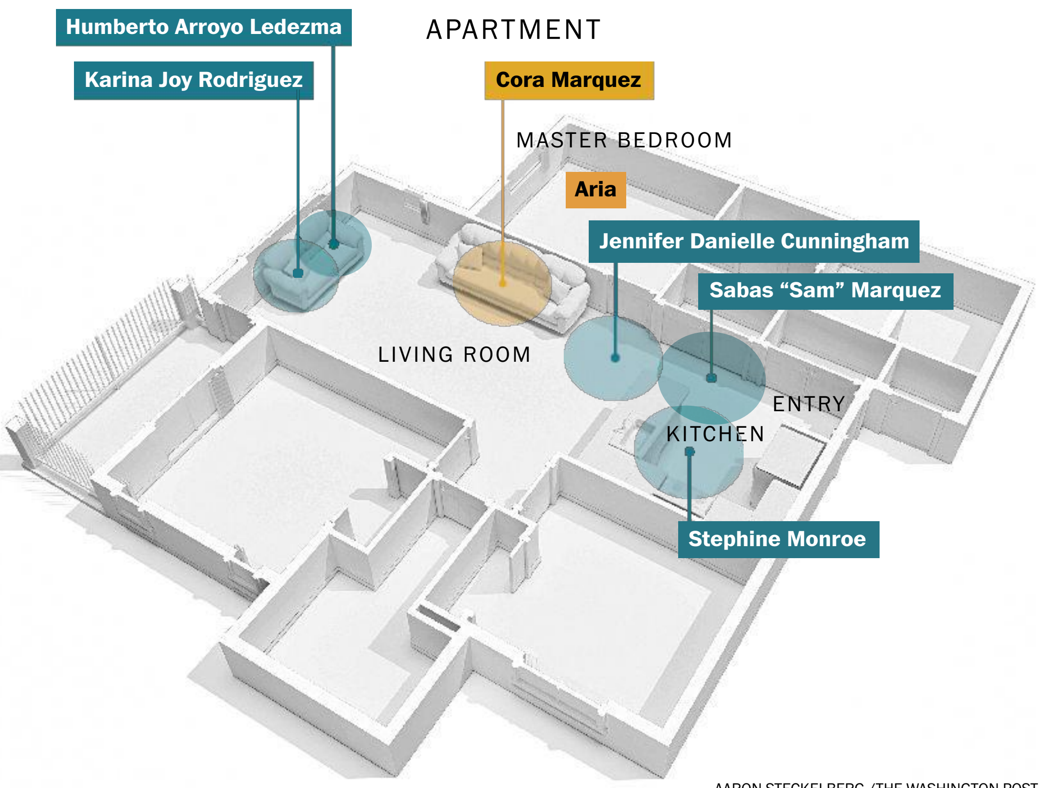
Mason returned to the North Range Crossings apartments one more time. He parked his car and walked to the building where the five had died. He hadn't been back there since that night in February when he saw what he was sure was a mass murder.

The vibrantly colored apartment complex looked and felt completely different to him in the daylight. Mason thought about how everyone had wanted answers that night — and had worked so hard subsequently to get them. It didn't matter. He couldn't make a case, and it haunted him.

He walked back to his car. The fentanyl crisis in the Denver area and across the country was growing worse.

Later that week, Mason would announce that he was charging two suspected drug traffickers with the death of their 1-year-old. She had ingested 10 times the amount of fentanyl that would kill an adult.

How are we ever going to be able to stop this? Mason wondered.



AARON STECKELBERG /THE WASHINGTON POST

Sari Horwitz and Meryl Kornfield reported from Commerce City. Nick Miroff and Steven Rich reported from Washington. Alice Crites and María Luisa Paúl contributed to this report.

If you or someone you know needs help with mental health or substance use issues, you can call the government's National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP(4357). You can also reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988, or a crisis counselor by messaging the Crisis Text Line at 741741.

Russia may be angling for another prisoner swap, for convicted assassin

Fate of detained former Marine Whelan could be tied to brazen killer

BY ADAM TAYLOR



SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

A portrait of Zelimkhan "Tornike" Khangoshvili, a Chechen war veteran killed by Vadim Krasikov in Berlin in 2019, stands among other purported victims of the Russian government at an August demonstration by pro-Ukrainian activists in the German capital.

Vadim Krasikov does not have the world-spanning reputation of Victor Bout. But there are signs that Russia wants him back just as much — if not more.

The United States swapped Bout, a notorious Russian arms dealer immortalized as a Hollywood villain, for basketball star Brittney Griner this month. But Paul Whelan — a former Marine, arrested in Moscow in 2018 — remains in Russia, and the chances of his return may be bound up in Russia's desire to free Krasikov, 57, convicted last year in Germany for the broad-daylight slaying of a former Chechen leader in 2019, in a bicycle drive-by in a Berlin park.

No master criminal or global "merchant of death," Krasikov, who investigators say did dirty work for Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, apparently bungled the escape. He was arrested after police found him removing a disguise in a bush.

For their differences, Krasikov and Bout have a key fact in common: Convicted of high-profile crimes connected to the interests of the Russian state and held abroad, they both became bargaining chips in high-stakes talks to free Americans held in Russia.

Many Russian agents are held around the world, but there appears to be something special about Krasikov for Moscow. However, his status as a brazen assassin, and the fact that he is held in Germany as opposed to the United States and has served only a fraction of his life sentence, make his potential exchange a tall order for Washington.

The Russians "do want him badly indeed," said Christo Grozev, executive director of the investigative outlet Bellingcat, which helped establish Krasikov's true identity and his links to the Russian state.

U.S. officials are set to meet with their Russian counterparts to discuss Whelan, whom a Russian court convicted of espionage in 2019 in a case that his family and the U.S. government say was politically motivated. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters Monday. The White House maintains that efforts to include him in the swap that freed Griner were unsuccessful.

The push for a swap could be a nonstarter: German media outlets report that German officials have refused requests to release the convicted assassin.

"The big challenge we had over the course of the past several months is that what Russia was asking for to secure Paul Whelan's release was not something that we had to be able to give," Sullivan said at a news briefing.

Unlike Bout, who was convicted in 2011 of charges including conspiracy to kill U.S. nationals, Krasikov's alleged crimes are not connected to the United States. And while Bout had served 15 years after he was ensnared in a complex Drug Enforcement Administration sting that led to his arrest in Thailand, Krasikov was convicted only in late 2021 for the killing of Zelimkhan "Tornike" Khangoshvili, a Chechen born in Georgia who was opposed to the leadership of Putin ally Ramzan Kadyrov.

David Whelan, the brother of Paul, wrote in an email that his family knew of various speculated trades, but they weren't clear who the Russians were after or even who was really making the decision. He said that the Russian Foreign Ministry had noted a number of Russians held by U.S. authorities, including convicted hacker Roman Seleznev and alleged money launderer Alexander Vinnik.

Some officials say they believe that Russian demands for Krasikov were never serious and only designed as a stalling tactic.

Speaking to ABC News on Sunday, White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said offers to trade Krasikov for Griner this summer were not considered a "serious offer."

"He's not in our custody," Kirby said.

Liana Fix, an expert on Europe at the Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S. think tank, said Russia might have thought Washington could simply tell Berlin to release Krasikov. "It fits Russia's worldview, where U.S. allies are regarded as satellites under U.S. control," she said.

But Germany is unlikely to hand over a convicted murderer as "spectacular and high-profile as Krasikov," she said, with the new government seeking to avoid criticism for being soft on Russia. Germany's top prosecutor handled the case, and the judge spoke of state terrorism in his judgment.

Though Krasikov was traveling on a false passport, under the name "Vadim Sokolov," investigators from Bellingcat working with Russian outlet the Insider and Germany's Der Spiegel found evidence that he was in fact Vadim Krasikov — a man linked to a similar assassination, also carried out on a bicycle, in Moscow in 2013.

Although Moscow fiercely denied any links to the crime, evidence also emerged that Russian authorities had removed Krasikov's details from various databases after the 2013 murder. Krasikov did not help matters by requesting books about Soviet spies from his German jailers, according to reports in the German media.

"His release would confirm what Russia has always denied — but then Moscow obviously doesn't care about the contradiction," Fix said.

Like Bout, who was suspected of maintaining ties to Russia's military intelligence wing, the GRU, Krasikov may be considered loyal for refusing to talk to Western authorities. But his status as an assassin could give him an edge in Moscow's estimations, as well.

Writing for the Center for European Policy Analysis, exiled Russian investigative journalists Irina Borogan and Andrei Soldatov note that while spies and hackers are useful to Moscow, assassins who travel internationally serve a special purpose: instilling fear, or worse, among Russian emigres.

"The Kremlin is not short of assassins, and yet it wants this one to return home," Borogan and Soldatov write. "This tells assassins that their work is valued, and it tells emigres that their lives are of little concern to the West; that their murderers will go free."

Mark Galeotti, an expert on Russian security, said the release of Krasikov would also reassure other would-be assassins. "It is the price of running these kind of risky and murderous covert operations abroad," he said. "If you do not demonstrate that you will stay loyal to your own when they are caught, whether they are gangsters or professional operatives, how can you expect them to stay quiet, and what chance do you have of recruiting the next ones?"

Grozev of Bellingcat offered a similar view. "'Leaving him behind' breaks their model of sending future assassins abroad: If the assassins don't believe they will be extracted, no one will take the risk," he said.

Krasikov appears to have gotten the message. "Russia knows I am here and will not forget me," he said shortly after his arrest in 2019, according to local media reports.

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ECONOMY & BUSINESS

DOW 33,202.22 DOWN 764.13, 2.2% | NASDAQ 10,810.53 DOWN 360.36, 3.2% | S&P 500 3,895.75 DOWN 99.57, 2.5% | GOLD $1,787.80 DOWN $30.90, 1.7% | CRUDE OIL $76.11 DOWN $1.17, 1.5% | 10-YEAR TREASURY YIELD 3.45% DOWN 0.8% | CURRENCIES $1= 137.81 YEN, 0.94 EUROS



POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Tesla CEO Elon Musk attends the opening of the company's new manufacturing plant in Gruenheide, Germany, in March.

Investors ask Musk: Twitter or Tesla?

Some are concerned the CEO's focus on the social media company is hurting his other ventures

BY FAIZ SIDDIQUI AND RACHEL LERMAN

In the middle of an audio chat in part discussing the future of Twitter, CEO Elon Musk said he had to drop off.

"I have a Tesla meeting that I'm late for," he said on the Twitter Spaces chat Tuesday, which more than 300,000 people tuned in to.

His abrupt departure is illustrative of concerns now dogging the new Twitter owner after his purchase of the company for $44 billion in late October. Helming the social media company has consumed much of Musk's schedule over the past several weeks; he has appeared on multiple audio chats and tweeted photos working from the company's San Francisco headquarters.

Now, some Tesla investors are calling for Musk to hand over the reins at one of his companies as the electric vehicle company's stock plummets — raising concerns that the billionaire is stretched too thin. Tesla closed Wednesday at $156.80 per share, with an overall valuation of less than $500 billion, sharply down from when Musk signaled his interest in Twitter over the spring and Tesla was valued at over $1 trillion.

Contributing to the losses, Musk sold about $3.5 billion worth of Tesla stock in recent days, according to a financial filing Wednesday night. That added to another more than $3.9 billion in Tesla shares sold by Musk in early November, according to the filings.

Shares of Tesla rose less than 1 percent during trading Thursday as the broader markets fell.

"Wake up tesla [board] — what is the plan? Who is running tesla and when is Elon coming back?" tweeted Ross Gerber, a Tesla investor who supported Musk's Twitter bid.

He added in a tweet late Wednesday that Tesla needed to buy back shares "to take advantage [of] the low share price Elon has created," as investors anticipated a potential further blow to the company's value on Thursday.

Musk did not respond to a request for comment. Tesla and Twitter did not respond to requests for comment.

Musk tweeted in a reply to another post Tuesday that "I will make sure Tesla shareholders benefit from Twitter long-term."

There is a view among some investors that Musk's recent stock sales might be the last big batch he sells, said Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives.

"But my view was it's wishful thinking because it's the boy who cried wolf again and again," he said, pointing to Musk's many Tesla stock sales this year.

Musk's bid to buy Twitter has been controversial with Tesla investors since he first announced the plan this spring. The billionaire holds much of his wealth in Tesla shares, and it was immediately apparent he would have to leverage his position there to afford his purchase of the social media company. Tesla's stock fell, but many investors remained cautiously optimistic, or at least neutral, about Musk's deal.

Investors cite their belief in Musk, including what they perceive as his relentless work ethic and ability to extract the most out of his employees. Musk has touted sleeping on the floor of the Tesla factory during a critical period when the company was struggling with production.

Musk also brought that ethos to Twitter. Early into his tenure, a photo showed an employee using a sleeping bag on the office floor, along with a tweet using the hashtag #SleepWhereYouWork. Musk demanded that employees commit to an "extremely hardcore" Twitter or accept severance packages, effectively laying off those who did not agree to the new ethos.

In his brief time as owner and chief executive of the company, Musk has gutted Twitter's workforce, disbanded an outside trust and safety council designed to help keep the site safe for users, and welcomed back previously banned accounts, including that of former president Donald Trump.

Since he took over in October, Musk has faced questions about how long Twitter will continue to impose such heavy demands on his time. He has said he will eventually reduce his time at Twitter and find someone else to run it.

Tesla has acknowledged in financial filings that Musk is occupied with his various business ventures, citing it as a risk to the business.

"We are highly dependent on the services of Elon Musk, Technoking of Tesla and our Chief Executive Officer," the company has said. "Although Mr. Musk spends significant time with Tesla and is highly active in our management, he does not devote his full time and attention to Tesla."

Already for some Tesla investors, it's adding up to be too much Twitter and not enough focus on Austin-based Tesla.

"We're in literally the best part of the company's history and it's being totally demolished by Twitter," Gerber said in an interview. "I think the stock would rally bigtime if they just said 'Elon's not CEO of Tesla anymore.' Now I don't want that. What I want is him back in Austin.'"

Gary Black, managing partner of Future Fund LLC, a Tesla investor, called on the Tesla board to pressure Musk to find a leader for Twitter so he can refocus his energies on the electric vehicle company.

"He will realize soon (if not already) that his polarizing political views are hurting customer perceptions of [Tesla] EVs," he wrote in a tweet. "Customers don't want their cars to be controversial. They want to be proud as hell to drive them — not embarrassed." He expressed hope Musk could "focus on [Tesla] as CEO."

Tesla is facing a demand slowdown in China and rising costs of supplies to make the electric vehicles. Investors are concerned about Musk's split focus, Ives said. They had also been wary he might continue to sell Tesla stock to fund Twitter.

Not since Steve Jobs with Apple or Jack Welch with GE has there been a CEO whose name is so closely tied to his company's brand, Ives said.

"The brand of Musk is so associated with Tesla," he said. "And the Twitter circus show has been a black eye for Musk and therefore a black eye for Tesla."

Goldman Sachs lowered its price target for Tesla this week, often meaning analysts expect the stock to fall, even as it said the company "remains well positioned for long-term growth." But deliveries are probably going to be lower than expected, analysts wrote. They called attention to media reports that Musk's actions have made the Tesla brand more polarizing.

"We believe that Tesla's brand has significant value related to the company's leadership position in clean energy and advanced technology," Goldman Sachs analysts wrote. "Having consumer focus related to Tesla shift back to these core attributes of sustainability and technology will be important in our view if Tesla is to meet or exceed long-term investor expectations for Tesla."

Twitter's and Tesla's futures are now tied to each other — not just through Musk's leadership, but also through his wealth.

"The more Tesla stock goes down, it ultimately puts more pressure on the ability to fund further Twitter losses," Ives said.

Even some of Musk's fans seem to be questioning him.

Galileo Russell, a YouTuber who focuses on Tesla and has heaped praise on Musk, criticized Musk for wading into politics.

"I think @elonmusk getting too political is a mistake," he wrote in a tweet.

Musk replied: "Must be done for the future of civilization, without which nothing matters." Another account then asked Musk where that ranked on his list of priorities.

"Number 1," he wrote.

Fans piled on, writing in tweets: "Can we make Tesla #1 and woke mind virus #2?" and "Hope it's worth it."

Russell, also a Tesla investor, said he is standing by Musk, despite his critical tweet on Musk's turn toward politics.

"I hold all my Tesla shares, and continue to believe Elon is the best CEO on the planet and best person to run Tesla," he told The Washington Post. "Short-term shareholders are a loud minority and will be washed out. This is a healthy and normal process as financial markets across the world rationalize."

Senator seeks FTC investigation of data sales to U.S. government agencies

BY JOSEPH MENN

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) has asked the Federal Trade Commission to investigate whether an internet infrastructure company violated the privacy rights of millions when it sold records of where they went online to the federal government.

In a letter dated Thursday and shared with The Washington Post, Wyden cited a paragraph entered into the record in the Justice Department's prosecution of Democratic lawyer Michael Sussmann stipulating that companies associated with a longtime industry entrepreneur had sold such information directly to government agencies, where it had classified contracts.

Sussmann was acquitted of misleading the FBI about who he was representing in 2016 when he passed along data that he said showed suspicious connections between a computer controlled by then-candidate Donald Trump and a Russian bank. The FBI found nothing to substantiate the accusation.

The stipulation naming entrepreneur Rodney Joffe was the clearest confirmation to date of web histories being sold directly to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, instead of through information brokers exempt from restrictions on what telephone companies and websites can share with the government.

Companies associated with Joffe "have maintained contracts with the United States government resulting in payment by the United States of tens of millions of dollars for the provision of, among other things, Domain Name System ('DNS') data. These contracts included classified contracts that required company personnel to maintain security clearances," the stipulation read in part.

Wyden asked for a probe of whether the company, now called Neustar Security Services, where Joffe was a top executive, should have warned consumers that it was selling sensitive information about their web habits.

Most of those whose records were shared never knew they interacted with Neustar. The data was obtained largely from domain name lookup services that Neustar provided to internet service providers, allowing consumers who type in the words of a website address to connect to the numerically labeled location recognized by computers.

That would not include search queries on Google or other information about where on a large site the consumer went. But it could still be very revealing, Wyden wrote.

"Knowing that a user visited the website of the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (suicidepreventionlifeline.org), the National Domestic Violence Lifeline (thehotline.org) or Power to Decide's Abortion Finder service (www.abortionfinder.org) can all reveal deeply personal and private information about a person," he wrote to FTC Chair Lina Khan.

Though Neustar's privacy policy says it may share information with others, Wyden said that the outright sale of such data, for what records show was millions of dollars, would have been enough to send some users elsewhere and therefore should have been revealed. Most consumers allow their internet provider to send them where they want to go, but Google, Cloudflare and others also offer free DNS lookups.

Wyden said it would be worse if Neustar had also sold data it obtained from VeriSign after it bought VeriSign's DNS business, a deal announced in 2020, because VeriSign had assured its customers that it would never share their information.

Wyden said Neustar staff refused to say whether VeriSign data was included in what it sold to the government and to government contractors. Executives would only say that they are not now selling DNS data. Wyden said that under previous FTC cases, an acquiring company cannot change the previous owner's privacy commitments without notice.

"Neustar did not take sufficient steps to warn consumers that it no longer intended to honor these promises, and as such, appears to have engaged in business practices substantially similar to those that the FTC has previously argued violated the FTC Act," Wyden wrote.

Neustar did not respond to an email seeking comment. The company has previously been reported to have sold DNS data to researchers at the University of Georgia, who in turn conducted searches for federal agencies.

DIGEST

REAL ESTATE

U.S. mortgage rates drop for fifth week

U.S. mortgage rates dropped for a fifth straight week, bringing slight relief to a housing market that has been slammed by the rise in borrowing costs this year.

The average for a 30-year, fixed loan fell to 6.31 percent, the lowest since late September, Freddie Mac said in a statement Thursday.

This year's surge in borrowing costs has pummeled demand in the housing market, sidelining potential buyers and even leading some sellers to hold off on listing homes.

But rates have started to ease over the past month, leading to a slight uptick in applications to buy homes.

"The good news for the housing market is that recent declines in rates have led to a stabilization in purchase demand," Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist, said in the statement.

"The bad news is that demand remains very weak in the face of affordability hurdles that are still quite high," Khater added.

The Federal Reserve has signaled that rates will probably go even higher.

On Wednesday, Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell said the central bank has "some ways to go" on its campaign to curb inflation after boosting its benchmark interest rate by 50 basis points.

The overall climb in borrowing costs throughout the year will continue to impact the market.

Brokerage and data company Redfin expects 2023 to be the slowest year for U.S. housing since 2011, even as the firm forecasts a slight easing in rates by the end of next year.

Buyers have been squeezed by affordability issues.

The monthly payment on a $600,000 loan at current rates is $3,718, up from $2,565 at the end of last year.

— Bloomberg News

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

Policymakers push for bigger rate boost

More than a third of the European Central Bank's policymakers favored a 75 basis-point interest rate increase on Thursday, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The Governing Council opted for the 50 basis-point move proposed by Chief Economist Philip Lane, and anticipated by analysts and investors, after a debate on the merits of a bigger increase that resulted in a compromise on the overall decision, said the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because such discussions are confidential.

Hawkish policymakers relented in their wish for a bigger increase because they prioritized the messaging on future moves and a firm agreement to promptly start reducing the ECB's balance sheet, the people said.

A spokesperson for the central bank declined to comment on the Governing Council's deliberations.

German two-year yields extended a rise after the report, up 25 basis points to 2.38 percent.

The decision slowed the pace of rate increases while also sustaining a strong anti-inflation rhetoric that included pledges by ECB President Christine Lagarde for additional half-point increases in 2023.

— Bloomberg News

ALSO IN BUSINESS

Unilever has settled litigation with the independent board of Ben & Jerry's over the sale of the ice cream brand's business in Israel but did not disclose any details. The consumer giant has been locked in a court battle since July with the independent board, which objected to the sale to local licensee Avi Zinger as it allows the ice cream to be sold in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

CubicPV plans to open a U.S. factory for making a key component of solar panels, saying recently passed climate legislation could lead to a renaissance in domestic manufacturing. Backed by Bill Gates's Breakthrough Energy Ventures, CubicPV makes monocrystalline silicon wafers, the first building block of a solar cell that conducts energy. The company plans to finalize site selection for the plant in the first quarter of 2023.

As much as 98 percent of the gold sold from areas surrounding Indigenous lands in Brazil between 2018 and 2020 has indications of irregularity, according to sustainability organization Instituto Escolhas. Illegally mined gold may be declared as coming from authorized areas when sold into the market, the institute said in the report, which reviewed government records and mining permit applications. Illegal mining within the Amazon is contributing to deforestation, disrupting Indigenous communities and exacerbating the effects of climate change.

— From news services

Stocks tumble as disappointing retail sales rekindle rate-hike concerns

BY JACOB BOGAGE, RACHEL LERMAN AND JACLYN PEISER

Spooked investors forced a stock sell-off on Thursday as worry spread that central bankers are raising interest rates in a weakening consumer market, pushing the economy toward a recession.

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday hiked interest rates an additional 0.5 percentage points in an attempt to tame inflation, followed Thursday by equivalent rate hikes by the European Central Bank, the Bank of England and the central bank of Switzerland.

But those increases were met with souring retail spending numbers, indicating that persistently high prices on consumer goods are bumping up against expensive credit and slowing economic growth.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended Thursday's trading down about more than 764 points, or 2.3 percent. The S&P 500 lost almost 100 points, or 2.5 percent, and the Nasdaq dropped around 360 points, or more than 3.2 percent.

"Our main message to investors is to be cautious," said James Demmert, chief investment officer at New York wealth management firm Main Street Research. "The Fed is trying to engineer a soft economic landing that in our view has a high likelihood of failing and causing a recession in 2023."

Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell has said the central bank's main goal is fighting inflation and pushing it down to a sustainable 2 percent from the 40-year high of 9.1 percent reached over the summer.

Data released on Tuesday showed inflation to be slowing — down to 7.1 percent in November from 7.7 percent the month prior — leading some economists to project prices may have reached their high-water mark.

But Powell sounded a cautionary note at his Wednesday news conference.

"The inflation data received so far for October and November show a welcome reduction in the monthly pace of price increases," he said. "But it will take substantially more evidence to give confidence that inflation is on a sustained downward path."

He said it was "just not knowable" whether the United States is headed into a recession or how severe an economic downturn could be.

That outlook, along with worse-than-expected retail sales numbers, appeared to shake investors' confidence. Government data released Thursday showed retail sales dropped 0.6 percent in November, a sharper decline than expected during the year's busiest shopping month.

The data is compared with October, which saw a 1.3 percent surge in sales. Some experts attributed the increase to stores rolling out earlier discounts to ease their inventory glut and to cater to consumers looking to spread out their holiday spending.

In November, consumers pulled back spending at stores that specialize in furniture and home furnishing (2.6 percent), electronics and appliances (1.5 percent), motors and car parts (2.3 percent) and home improvement and gardening materials (2.5 percent), according to the Census Bureau's report.

But the report from Census Bureau highlighted warnings from industry experts that inflation is weighing more and more on consumers, who are growing weary of paying more for less. The resilience of shoppers that has marked much of the year is wearing off.

"A note of caution is starting to sound in consumer behavior as shoppers become more discerning and cut back on the number of things they buy," said Neil Saunders, managing director at the analytics company GlobalData.

Major retail stocks almost uniformly fell Thursday. Walmart fared the best, with a 0.9 percent loss. Costco's shares fell 4 percent, Target's 3.2 percent and Home Depot's 1.8 percent.

Declines in the tech sector cemented an already dreary year for many Silicon Valley giants. After a usage boom during the pandemic, tech companies have seen their growth rates wane this year. Shares of Apple, Amazon, Facebook parent Meta, Google parent Alphabet and Microsoft all fell more than 3 percent Thursday.

Bucking the trend were shares in Tesla, which saw a small gain of more than 0.5 percent. That follows days of falling share prices amid investor concern about chief executive Elon Musk's increased focus on his new company, Twitter. Musk sold about $3.5 billion worth of Tesla stock in recent days.

More broadly, the markets are reacting to a "hawkish" announcement from the Fed, said Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives, including projections that show the Fed is on track to hike rates past 5 percent next year.

"The fear," he said, "is that the Fed is the straw that breaks the camel's back and the economy goes into a much more severe recession if the Fed continues to keep the foot on the accelerator."

Rachel Siegel contributed to this report.

THE MARKETS

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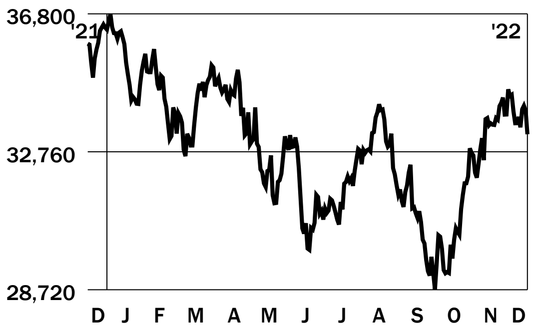
Data and graphics by Bloomberg

DOW JONES

Close **33,202.22**

1D % Change **-2.2%**

YTD % Change **-8.6%**



NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX

Close **10,810.53**

1D % Change **-3.2%**

YTD % Change **-30.9%**



STANDARD & POOR'S

Close **3,895.75**

1D % Change **-2.5%**

YTD % Change **-18.3%**



Dow Jones 30 Industrials

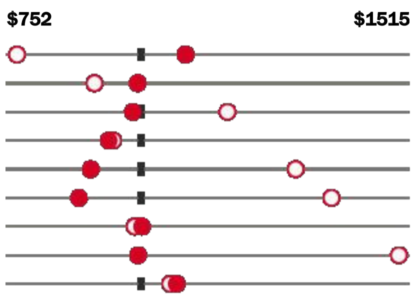
Company	Close	1D % Chg	Chg % YTD	Company	Close	1D % Chg	Chg % YTD
3M Co	122.38	-2.9	-31.1	J&J	177.49	-1.3	3.8
AmerExpCo	150.22	-2.5	-8.6	JPMorgan	130.10	-2.5	-17.8
Amgen Inc	266.14	-1.8	18.3	McDonald's	271.73	-1.0	1.4
Apple Inc	136.50	-4.7	-23.3	Merck & Co	109.63	-1.7	43.0
Boeing	183.72	-2.4	-8.9	Microsoft	249.01	-3.2	-26.0
Caterpillr	230.66	-1.6	11.4	NIKE Inc	108.51	-2.6	-34.9
Chevron	171.04	-0.7	45.8	Prcter& Gmbl	151.11	-1.1	-7.6
Cisco Sys	48.15	-2.3	-24.1	Salesforce	130.44	-3.2	-48.7
Coca-Cola	63.11	-1.4	6.6	Travelers Cos I	183.57	-1.6	17.3
Dow Inc	49.53	-3.6	-12.7	UntdHlthGr	527.68	-2.0	5.1
Gldman Schs	349.83	-2.9	-8.6	Verzn Comm	37.77	0.9	-27.3
Hnywll Int	208.97	-2.7	0.2	Visa Inc	207.91	-2.5	-4.1
Home Depot	327.60	-1.7	-21.1	Walgreens	39.53	-2.7	-24.2
IBM	142.36	-5.0	6.5	Walmart	145.36	-0.9	0.5
Intel Corp	27.15	-3.9	-47.2	Walt Disney	90.49	-3.9	-41.6

COMMODITIES

Futures	Close	1D % Chg	Futures	Close	1D % Chg
Copper	3.76	-3.0	Silver	23.31	-3.4
Crude Oil	76.11	-1.5	Sugar	19.98	-1.5
Gold	1787.80	-1.7	Soybean	14.77	-0.6
Natural Gas	6.97	8.4	Wheat	7.57	1.1
Orange Juice	1.99	-0.9	Corn	6.54	0.5

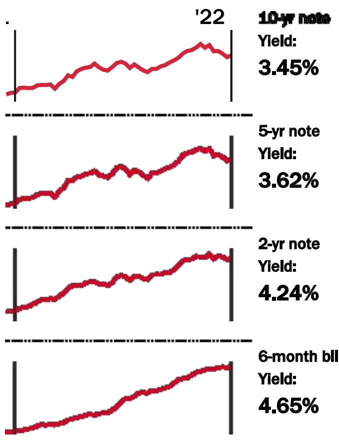
$1000 invested over 1 Year $1000 invested over 1 Month

Exchange-Traded (Ticker)	1D % Chg
Coffee (COFF.L)	1.7
Copper (COPA.L)	-2.5
Corn (CORN.L)	-0.5
Cotton (COTN.L)	-0.9
Crude Oil (CRUD.L)	-1.8
Gasoline (UGAS.L)	-1.8
Gold (BULL.L)	-2.0
Natural Gas (NGAS.L)	-3.6
Silver (SLVR.L)	-3.6



RATES

Bank Prime **7.50%**	30-Yr Fixed mtge **6.60%**
Federal Funds **4.50%**	15-Yr Fixed mtge **6.00%**
LIBOR 3-Month **4.74%**	1-Yr ARM **5.36%**



Consumer Rates

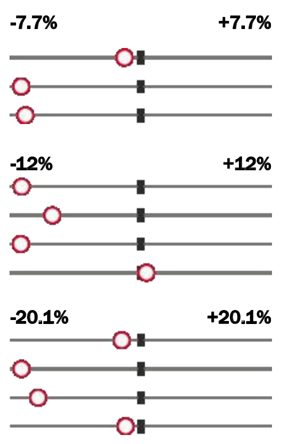
Money Market Natl 0.33	5Yr CD Natl 2.73
6Mo CD Natl 1.78	New Car Loan Natl 6.48
1Yr CD Natl 2.31	Home Equity Loan Natl 8.62

Currency Exchange

EU €	Japan ¥	Britain £	Brazil R$	Canada $	Mexico $
0.94	137.81	0.82	5.31	1.37	19.77

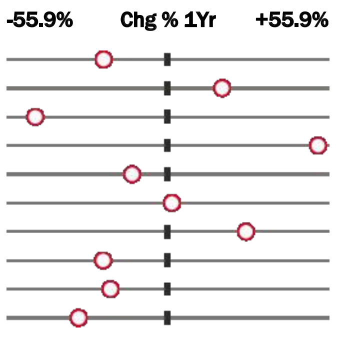
INTERNATIONAL STOCK MARKETS

Markets	Close	Daily % Chg
Americas		
BRAZIL IBOVESPA INDEX	103737.69	0.0
S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX	19600.63	-1.5
S&P/BMV IPC	49342.34	-1.4
Europe		
STXE 600 (EUR) Pr	429.91	-2.8
CAC 40 INDEX	6522.77	-3.1
DAX INDEX	13986.23	-3.3
FTSE 100 INDEX	7426.17	-0.9
Asia Pacific		
S&P/ASX 200 INDEX	7204.78	-0.6
CSI 300 INDEX	3951.99	-0.1
HANG SENG INDEX	19368.59	-1.5
NIKKEI 225	28051.70	-0.4



S&P 500 Industry Group Snapshot

Industry Group	Daily % Chg
Household Durables	1.4
Health Care Technology	0.0
Automobiles	-0.1
Energy Equipment & Svcs	-0.2
Water Utilities	-0.5
Metals & Mining	-5.0
Construction & Engineerng	-4.8
Computers & Peripherals	-4.7
Electrnc Eqp	-4.0
Semiconductors & Semi Eqp	-3.9



Gainers and Losers from the S&P 1500 Index

Company	Close	1D % Chg	Company	Close	1D % Chg
Agilysys Inc	70.40	13.9	Masterbrand Inc	7.70	-14.4
Fortune Brands Innv	57.62	8.9	LivePerson Inc	10.93	-12.2
LGI Homes Inc	104.04	4.5	Western Digital Corp	32.21	-10.1
Big Lots Inc	16.99	4.2	Century Aluminum Co	7.35	-9.9
Sally Beauty Inc	12.73	4.2	3D Systems Corp	8.27	-9.4
Cytokinetics Inc	43.10	4.1	Nucor Corp	134.10	-9.3
Lennar Corp	94.29	3.8	Shoe Carnival Inc	21.80	-9.1
DR Horton Inc	90.45	3.5	Southwest Gas Inc	64.99	-8.9
PBF Energy Inc	37.26	3.5	WarnerBrosDiscovery	10.00	-8.9
Align Technology Inc	201.97	3.1	Paramount Global	17.66	-8.8
Meritage Homes Corp	94.33	2.6	Netflix Inc	290.41	-8.6
Coterra Energy Inc	25.33	2.6	Xperi Inc	9.11	-8.4
Green Brick Partners	25.54	2.6	Generac Holdings Inc	92.88	-8.2
Nordson Corp	241.84	2.5	EW Scripps Co/The	13.50	-8.1
Ranger Oil Corp	39.65	2.5	Apollo Medical Inc	27.17	-8.1
Bed Bath & Beyond	2.98	2.4	Ebix Inc	19.46	-8.1
Antero Resources	34.44	2.4	Arcus Biosciences	31.00	-7.8
Cal-Maine Foods Inc	58.28	2.4	Celsius Holdings Inc	107.14	-7.7
KB Home	32.81	2.2	Astec Industries Inc	40.28	-7.6
Cboe Global Markets	124.14	2.0	SunPower Corp	21.80	-7.4

Data and graphics by: Bloomberg

Note: Bank prime is from 10 major banks. Federal Funds rate is the market rate, which can vary from the federal target rate. LIBOR is the London Interbank Offered Rate. Consumer rates are from Bankrate. All figures as of 4:30 p.m. New York time.

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Drop-off in foreign workers skyrocketed during pandemic

WORKERS FROM A1

panies raise wages to compete for a smaller pool of workers and to keep existing staff.

The crisis had prompted senators on both sides of the aisle to try to strike a deal that allowed more legal immigration in the weeks before Republicans take control of the House. But those proposals never got off the ground, making an immigration overhaul far less politically feasible.

"Immigration is something almost everyone agrees needs to be fixed, but it's become a political wedge issue," said Tara Watson, an economics professor at Williams College and fellow at the Brookings Institution. "There have been huge bureaucratic delays since the Trump administration. And of course covid really put a wrench in the gears. But this is a long-term structural problem that has not been addressed."

Economists say it's difficult to quantify exactly how many foreign-born workers are missing from the labor force, particularly when it comes to undocumented immigrants. By one estimate, the United States is shy of about 1.7 million legal immigrants based on pre-pandemic migration trends, according to Giovanni Peri, director of the Global Migration Center at the University of California at Davis.

Even though immigration rates have picked up in recent months, Peri says it could be another four years before the country makes up for current shortfalls. Even then, it won't be enough to catch up to the rapidly aging workforce that is projected to leave millions more positions unfilled.

Economists estimate that the lack of immigration is responsible for close to half of the workers missing from the labor force, a deficit Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell recently estimated to be about 3.5 million workers.

"There is no question: We need more immigration," said Adam Ozimek, chief economist at Economic Innovation Group, a nonpartisan business organization. "Immigrants aren't just workers, they are particularly flexible, mobile workers, who help address acute labor shortages wherever they emerge. And that's particularly important in this constrained economy we're facing right now."

Visas for college students and highly skilled science and tech workers have bounced back relatively quickly, Peri said. But immigration rates for people without a college education have been slower to make up for lost ground.

"If someone doesn't have much education and doesn't have a close relative in the U.S., there is virtually no legal pathway for them to get a green card," said Watson of Williams College. "There is a pool of untapped talent out there."

The drop-off in foreign workers began soon after Donald Trump took office, largely on an anti-immigrant platform. Although his administration didn't make legislative changes, it slowed down visa processing through "a culture of extreme vetting and extreme delays" that was enough to deter immigration in all forms, especially among those without college educations, Peri said.

The number of new immigrants entering the country legally each year, which peaked in



ARIN YOON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



LITTLE BEAR PRODUCE

TOP: As a hotel general manager in Topeka, Kan., Alonzo Arteaga has raised pay and offered perks to employees but still finds himself doubling as housekeeper because of the labor shortage. ABOVE: Little Bear Produce in Edinburg, Tex., has used temporary workers from Mexico to fill jobs.

2016, fell by 6 percent in 2017 and another 9 percent the following year, according to data from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. But the pandemic dealt the biggest blow: New arrivals plunged 50 percent between 2019 and 2021.

"Covid caused two years of lost immigration," Peri said. "Embassies and consulates that release visas were mostly shut down. The processing of green cards in the U.S. was mostly shut down. Even international travel was mostly gone."

Many of those situations have since improved, but business owners say it hasn't been enough to make up for years of lost workers.

Early in the pandemic, Mariama Lowe lost nearly three-quarters of the employees at her home health-care business in Alexandria, Va., to covid illnesses, career changes and early retirements. She's since gone from 100 nurses and personal care aides — almost all of them immigrants — to 27.

"We're in a very difficult position, because there is nobody to hire anymore," Lowe said. "Tech companies can go recruit from anywhere; they have all of these avenues available to them. But a home health agency like me? I don't have that opportunity. I just have to go with whoever's here and whoever's available. And right now, it's not a lot."

Beyond creating wider avenues for immigrants to enter the country, business owners, economists and policymakers say there also needs to be a focus on retaining foreign-born workers already in the United States. That includes "dreamers," undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as young children; recently laid-off tech workers on H1-B visas who may have to leave the country if they don't find new work within 60 days; and the adult children of highly educated legal immigrants awaiting permanent residency.

U.S. lawmakers are not expected to address these issues before Congress breaks for the holidays, as all their attention is focused on funding the government. Sens. Kyrsten Sinema (I-Ariz.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) had discussed creating a pathway to citizenship for dreamers in exchange for $25 billion to strengthen border security. That proposal could be pushed into the new year, with even slimmer chances of succeeding.

"A border proposal is a critical component to Congress's ability to move anything," said Dane Linn, senior vice president at Business Roundtable, an industry lobbying group. "If we don't have the border, we don't have a deal on anything else on immigration."

Immigration policy remains a divisive topic among Republicans, as anti-immigration sentiment is a tenet of the far right wing of the party and played well with Trump's base in 2016. Some Republicans say new paths to legal immigration should not be implemented until the border is secured enough that undocumented migrants cannot make it into the country. With Republicans taking control of the House in January, refusal from some conservative members to pass any reforms could prevent progress on legislation.

"Before anything else is done or any legislation passed, the border must be secured, the laws currently on the books must be enforced," said John Fonte, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, a right-wing think tank. "The bigger problem we face [more so than declines in immigration] is the large number of America-born citizens not in [the] labor force."

Roughly 100 millions Americans are not in the labor force — meaning they don't have a job or aren't looking for one — according to government data, although it is unclear how many of those people are American-born.

Undergirding many of the current challenges is a tangle of decades-old quotas, experts say. Visas for highly skilled tech workers, for example, have been capped at 85,000 a year since 2006. At the other end of the pay scale, nonagricultural temporary work visas, most used by industries such as food services, construction, hotels and motels, and janitorial services, top out at 66,000. U.S. officials this week announced plans to nearly double that figure for the coming year, in hopes of making it easier to staff seasonal "jobs that are not filled by American workers."

Business lobbying groups are pushing for a number of changes, including increasing the annual allotment of employment visas, creating more ways for international students who attend U.S. colleges to stay longer and asking the State Department to make it easier for immigrants to renew their work visas.

Also high on their list: getting more farmworkers into the United States to pick, process and package a range of crops, meat and poultry.

In Napa Valley, Calif., grape growers can't find the immigrant workers they once relied on to cultivate the region's hallowed vineyards. Many farmworkers have retired to their native villages in central Mexico, vineyard managers said, and millennial and Gen Z workers never arrived to fill their shoes.

"A younger generation from Mexico never came," said Michael Wolf, a vineyard manager for nearly 50 years in Napa Valley. "A lot of [vineyards] are struggling. People are using local farm labor contractors to transport workers to Napa from Stockton a couple hours a day in each direction. But that's not sustainable."

Declines in immigration to the region have been exacerbated by devastating wildfires, the pandemic and inflation that has contributed to the region's soaring cost of living. Forty-four percent of vineyard businesses in Napa reported a labor shortage in 2021, according to a joint study by UC Davis and a wine industry nonprofit in Napa. Meanwhile, the region lost 7 percent of its adult immigrant population between 2015 and 2020 compared with the previous five years.

Wolf has managed to fill open roles by hiring workers from Mexico on H-2A visas, a seasonal program for guest workers in agriculture.

Labor shortages are not new to agriculture but have worsened in recent years, according to farmers and industry experts in California. The reasons for the declining availability of farmworkers are complex and debated, ranging from improved educational opportunities in Mexico to heightened border security.

"We have long known that Americans do not want to do these jobs," said Brett Erickson, senior vice president at Little Bear Produce, which grows 5,000 acres of greens, onions, cabbages and melons on the Mexico border, in Edinburg, Tex. "We've been struggling with labor shortages for decades, but now it's come to a crisis point. The labor force has completely dried up."

He would've liked to have planted 15 percent more crops this year but says labor constraints made that impossible. Little Bear has begun using temporary workers from Mexico to fill in employment gaps, though it's so costly that it's become difficult for the company to keep turning a profit. The family-run business is also doubling down on automation and investing in machines that can wash, cut and bag vegetables. Crops still have to be picked by hand, which is becoming more expensive as labor shortages persist.

"This is a plea to Congress that they stop kicking this can down the road. It's not just farmers who are being affected," he said. "Consumers are ultimately paying the price — and we're all consumers; we all have to eat."

Marianna Sotomayor, Liz Goodwin and Camila DeChalus contributed to this report.

Student loan garnishments continued despite payment pause, records show

BY DANIELLE DOUGLAS-GABRIEL

After months of the Education Department garnishing her paycheck for a past-due student loan in 2019, Natalie Morehead saw a glimmer of hope during the turmoil of the coronavirus pandemic.

In March 2020, at the onset of the health crisis, the government stopped the seizure of wages, tax refunds and Social Security benefits to recoup student debt from borrowers like her. The reprieve was immediate for Morehead, but short-lived.

Six months later, the garnishments briefly began again, taking nearly half of her paycheck for one month. Morehead, who worked at a doctor's office earning barely minimum wage, said she was left without enough money to cover rent and buy food for her and her three children.

"It was a nightmare, but one that seemed like it was ending, only to restart all over again," said Morehead, 37, who has struggled to repay $28,000 in debt she acquired for a medical assistant certificate from Chicago Systems Institute in Illinois.

Consumer advocates say Morehead's experience is emblematic of the Education Department's unwieldy system for recouping past-due student debt.

Hundreds of thousands of borrowers continued to have their paychecks shorted despite a congressional order, leading some to sue the federal agency to cease collections and refund their money. The lawsuit, and a subsequent inspector general report, detailed challenges the department faced in turning off the system.

But new data shows those problems were far deeper and lasted longer than previously known.

A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request analyzed by the advocacy group Student Borrower Protection Center revealed the Education Department continued garnishing people's wages at least through August 2021, 10 months longer than the agency's inspector general reported. In more than 2,000 pages of internal documents released Thursday, the department shows how difficult it is to manage its own collection system.

"It's a leaky faucet that they can't seem to fix," said Persis Yu, deputy executive director and managing counsel at the Student Borrower Protection Center. "If the department has no real control, then the system should not be turned back on."

The hold on administrative wage garnishment is set to end as student loan repayments resume next year, but Yu argues the department has a moral obligation not to throw vulnerable borrowers back into a broken collection system.

The Education Department plans to take up debt collection reform as a part of its regulatory agenda next year. In the meantime, the department said Wednesday that its Fresh Start initiative to lift borrowers out of default will eliminate administrative wage garnishment for a period of one year after the return to repayment.

There are multiple steps involved in ending an involuntary collection such as a paycheck garnishment. Employers must be notified by the department to stop withholding money from the borrower's paycheck. It can then take employers weeks to fully process and cease collection.

The Washington Post previously reported that the Trump administration failed to send formal letters to employers notifying them to end the wage garnishments. The agency initially sent emails, most of which remained unopened. Consumer groups say employers are often reluctant to act without formal notification from the agency because of the threat of penalties.

The department said it struggled to contact many employers, particularly during the early part of the pandemic, when mail pickup at companies was affected and many people — including payroll officers — were working remotely. Department officials point out that its inspector general concluded that the agency "took quick action to implement processes that generally achieved positive results."

However, documents show department staffers, as well as its contractor, Maximus, resorting to Google to find accurate company addresses in February 2021. Although the strategy yielded some success, it was not enough. At one point that month, a senior official at Maximus told the department that the company had a "plan to call the borrowers ... to see if they can get the employers to stop. After that, we will be ready to say we have done what we can."

By June 2021, Maximus issued a report to the department showing that employers who were still garnishing wages had been contacted as many as 50 or more times by October 2020.

As a part of the class-action case filed in April 2020 to stop the garnishments, the Trump administration had to submit progress reports to the court. Newly released documents show the administration provided misleading information.

While assuring the court that the department only had 509 employers still garnishing wages in October 2020, department staff confirmed in an internal memo that the number was actually twice as high. The department also told the court that it had made successful contact with all employers, but internal documents obtained through the FOIA request show staffers had invalid addresses or only left voice mails in many cases.

"This investigation is a troubling reminder of what we already knew: the predatory debt collection system is out of control," said Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.). "It's clear that under two Administrations — one with contempt for the people and one with compassion — the agency was unable to rein in these unconscionable and explicitly banned wage garnishments."

The Education Department also promised to quickly refund any money it received from improper wage garnishments. A separate FOIA request made by the D.C.-based nonprofit National Student Legal Defense Network in August 2021 found that more than 10,000 people were still awaiting refunds more than a year after the suspension order.

The department would not confirm how many people are still in line to receive money or whether garnishments have fully ceased.

Morehead has yet to be refunded the money the Education Department seized from her paycheck. For her, the resumption of collections ended within a month of starting. The Student Borrower Protection Center said it encountered other borrowers like Morehead whose wages were seized in September 2020, one of the many times when the payment pause was slated to end.

Morehead said she has tried to bring her student loan account back into good standing but never received confirmation that her request to rehabilitate her loans was received. She is "dreading" the end of the collections moratorium next year.

"I honestly doubt I'll ever be able to pay this off," Morehead said of her balance. "I'll be working the rest of my life to get rid of this debt."

State transportation agencies differ on federal push for emissions tracking

BY IAN DUNCAN

From his new perch as president of the powerful group representing state transportation departments, Roger Millar pledged this fall to help protect the nation's roads from a changing climate.

Resilience work is an increasingly urgent job for transportation agencies battling the effects of flooded roads and overheated concrete. But when it comes to addressing the role of the transportation sector — the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions — in a warming planet, many state agencies have been more muted.

Days before Millar's election to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the organization filed comments on a government proposal indicating most states oppose a plan to have transportation agencies track vehicle emissions and set goals to bring them down. In other states, highway officials said they supported the measure, which is part of a Biden administration push for environmental accountability.

The split illustrates how state transportation departments are grappling with their changing role at a time of record federal investment from the infrastructure law. Despite Washington's financial infusion and an administration seeking to reduce emissions, state agencies hold most of the power in how money is spent, while critics argue they haven't moved beyond the interstate-building era.

The organization's members — which include DOTs in 50 states, the District and Puerto Rico — are determining how hundreds of billions of federal dollars are being spent nationwide while deciding whether to build new roads, expand existing highways or fund mass transit. About $325 billion will flow through programs that send money to states, giving them broad latitude on how to direct the funds.

The election of Millar, the Washington state secretary of transportation, to AASHTO's top post is one sign of how views among state transportation officials are shifting. Millar, who was involved in advocacy work to encourage new approaches to transportation, said state agencies are recognizing the limits of road construction — albeit some more quickly than others.

"I tell people we're not your father's DOT or your mother's DOT," he said.

AASHTO is state transportation agencies' voice in Washington and plays a key role for setting technical standards, many which effectively have the backing of the federal government when adopted.

The election of Millar as AASHTO president caught the attention of some transportation advocates and environmental groups that often criticize state transportation agencies. Angie Schmitt, a pedestrian safety consultant, said she's eager to see how Millar uses his new role to advance road safety and environmental sustainability.

"He's a really thoughtful guy," said Schmitt, author of the book "Right of Way: Race, Class, and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America." "I'm glad he's accepted enough in the industry that they put him in that role."

AASHTO traces its history back more than 100 years, when the federal government began funding road construction. It sought to preserve the authority of states to decide which road projects are built. The group won a key battle in 1921 against AAA, which proposed a greater role for the federal government, and continues to advocate that states take the lead on transportation-related projects.

With the interstate system built-out, and in some places reaching the end of its life span, the organization's focus has evolved. In 2020, AASHTO issued a strategic plan that placed resilience, safety, equity and social justice among its priorities.

Shawn Wilson, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, was the president before Millar. Wilson helped to focus the organization on questions of racial equity, a priority for the Biden administration.

"We've come a long way," Wilson said. "The vast majority of this discussion at this annual conference that just ended was around equity, it was around safety, it was around how do we design things better, how do we include more underrepresented businesses."

In some ways, Millar's career makes him an unlikely choice to lead an organization so closely associated with road construction. He began working on alternative modes of transportation in Portland, Ore., in the 1980s, helping to develop a light-rail service after residents revolted against highway construction plans.

Millar then became a consultant to help Western ski-resort towns guard against being overrun by traffic before joining advocacy organization Smart Growth America. He also led the National Complete Streets Coalition, promoting an ethos that seeks to balance the needs of cars with transit riders, pedestrians and cyclists.

In Aspen, Millar said he learned that to reduce driving, cities must provide a more enticing alternative — in Aspen's case, a rapid bus line.

"It's faster, cheaper, better," he said. "Not surprisingly, 15,000 people a day ride that bus."

After becoming Washington's transportation secretary in 2016, Millar said he received an email from a resident who complained that the speed limit on Interstate 5 in the Seattle area was 60 mph, even though the driver had never reached that speed because of congestion.

Millar's staff calculated the cost of building enough lanes on state roads that people could travel the speed limit at all times. The answer they came back with was $115 billion, which would require raising the state's 49.4-cent gas tax by $2.50 a gallon.

"We're at a point of diminishing returns where building new highways costs more and more and we get less and less out of it," Millar said.

Those costs have implications for how people get around but also for the climate, as construction of more roads tends to encourage people to drive more and consume more gas.

A dispute over whether the federal government should hold state transportation agencies accountable for greenhouse gas emissions has revealed resistance to formal efforts to track their effects on climate change — and an internal divide within AASHTO.

Environmental advocates say by building a sprawling network of highways, state transportation agencies have locked the nation into a system dependent on carbon-emitting car travel, while others argue that continued investment in roads is vital to ease congestion and connect communities. To boost accountability among states, the Federal Highway Administration revived a proposal advanced in the Barack Obama administration requiring states to set targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions from transportation, then regularly disclose their progress.

AASHTO wrote to the federal agency in October to oppose the idea, saying "not all state DOTs have the same ability to directly affect the reduction in GHG emissions."

Rural states, in particular, have questioned how effectively they can shift people to other modes of transportation and have challenged the legal basis of the federal proposal. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation filed comments saying its mission did not include efforts to reduce emissions.

"Oklahoma DOT has no control over the number of vehicles that use interstate or other national highway system routes, nor what fuel sources they use," the agency wrote.

AASHTO's opposition was not unanimous, and in an unusual step, the group's letter acknowledged some of its members strongly favored the federal plan.

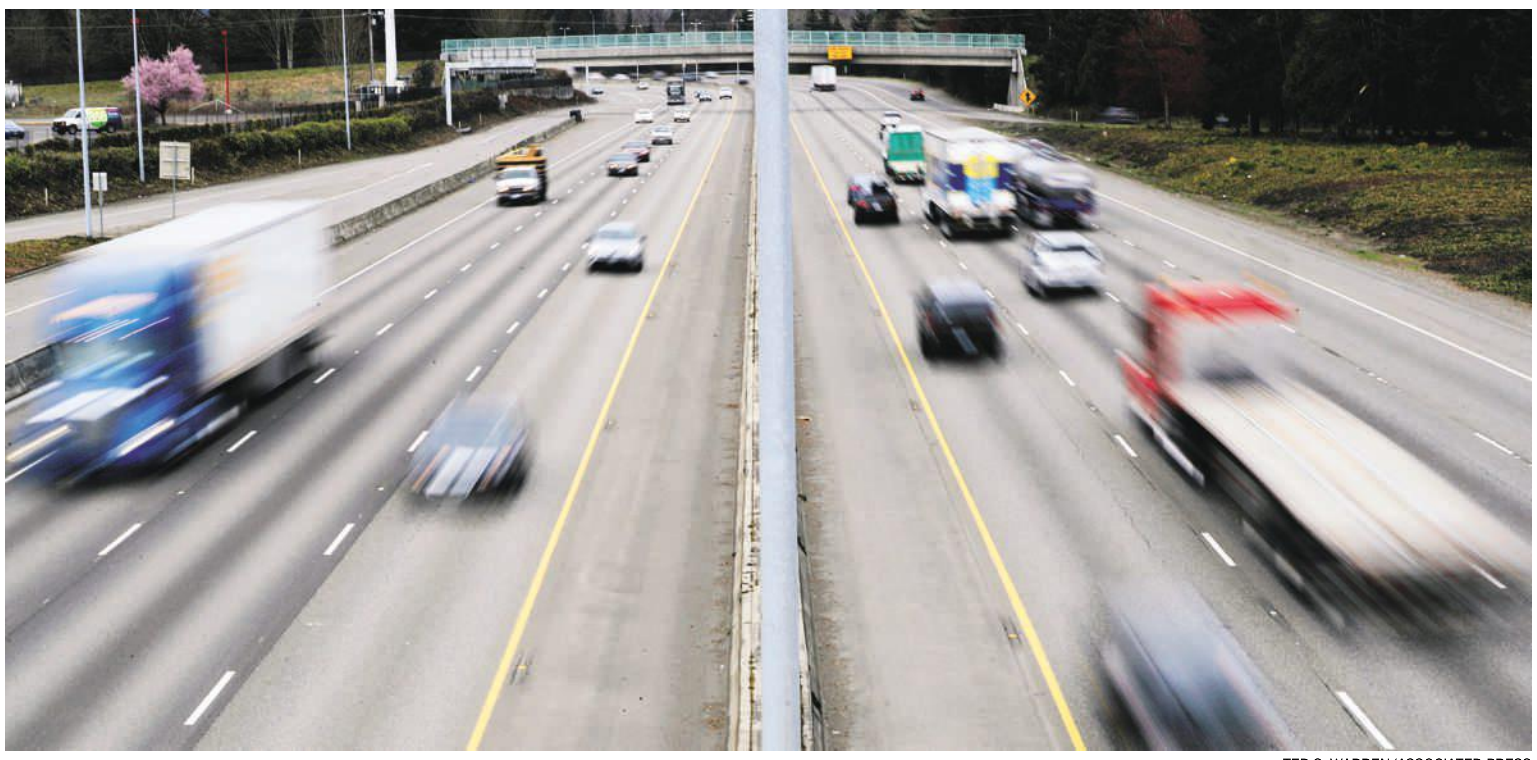
Millar's department joined 10 other state DOTs in writing a letter filed separately with the federal government in support of the proposal.

The letter said the proposal would be an "important step toward better understanding and accounting for the environmental effects of federally funded transportation investments."

Tim Sexton, an assistant Minnesota transportation commissioner, helped to organize that second letter. He said having a federal standard would help to build on emission reduction efforts that states already are undertaking and would attract federal money.

Sexton also said AASHTO is in a delicate position, ruled by consensus with each state having an equal voice. It will be up to Millar to help manage the different views.

"They're trying to balance those different opinions, so they're getting pulled in a lot of directions," Sexton said.



TED S. WARREN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

As president of a powerful state transportation officials group, Roger Millar pledged to help protect the roads from a changing climate.

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Democrats mount week-long campaigns in a Va. primary

CAMPAIGN FROM A1

endorsements — going head-to-head with bad-boy-of-the-people Morrissey, who keeps coming back from controversy thanks to loyal local fans.

The campaigns had no shortage of metaphors for the discombobulation, even before Day 3, when the three-ring circus became a two-ringer.

"We're building this ship as it leaves the dock," Christina Freundlich, a spokeswoman for Bagby's campaign, said Wednesday afternoon, before he bowed out.

"You're building the plane as you fly it," said Jared Leopold, an adviser to McClellan's campaign.

The unusual timeline is tied to the date Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) selected for the special election, Feb. 21. State law requires party nominees to be selected at least 60 days before the election, and, in this case, that means the deadline to pick the nominee is Dec. 23.

Faced with seemingly no great options, the 4th Congressional District Democratic Committee voted to hold a firehouse primary on Dec. 20, with eight voting locations across the district, three of which the committee added on Wednesday. Democrats Joseph Preston, who served one year in the House of Delegates, and Tavorise Marks also are running. Republicans will hold a convention Saturday to select their nominee.

But because the 4th District is solidly blue, this Democratic primary campaign probably will decide the next member of Congress, creating a high-stakes, rapid-pace contest under "pretty extraordinary" circumstances, said Kyle Kondik, the managing editor of Sabato's Crystal Ball at the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

Kondik said that for congressional Democrats, Youngkin's decision to hold the special election sooner rather than later probably is welcome, considering that Republicans will have only a narrow majority in the House and that Democrats will need every vote they can muster. On the flip side, the preholiday rush among Democratic candidates and voters leaves little time for the candidates to project their messages and for the voters to digest them.

"It's an incredibly tight turnaround," Kondik said. "The people who show up are probably going to be the most plugged-in people. I don't necessarily know who that would help among the candidates, but it's hard to imagine turnout would be particularly high."

Then again, he wondered, considering the unusual circumstances, which defy logical comparison: "What even is high or low turnout in this context?"

For a sense of how fast this train is moving, on Wednesday afternoon Bagby was first out of the gate with a radio ad, had approved campaign literature and said in an interview later that day that he was planning to rely in part on a network of church pastors to help spread the word and get voters to the polls.

Less than 24 hours later, he dropped out of the race. In a statement Thursday, he threw his weight behind McClellan, as did Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney, who had earlier endorsed Bagby.

"I made this decision because I believe it's in the best interests of the voters of this district to step aside and ensure we have the right representation in Congress," Bagby said. "Just as I am clear-eyed in my decision to step aside, I also firmly believe there is only one candidate in this race fit to replace my late mentor, Donald McEachin. That person is Senator Jennifer McClellan."

For Fightin' Joe, 'no time for that'

Morrissey is running for Congress without big money, TV ads, mailers, yard signs or a single poll. He's not even knocking on doors, with the exception of Dec. 13, just a week ahead of the primary, when he visited a low-income high-rise in Petersburg to gather the 150 signatures needed to get on the ballot.

"When you're running a six-day campaign, there's no time for that," said Matt Wheeler, a Morrissey campaign aide.

He was referring specifically to a bit of get-out-the-vote infrastructure that Morrissey normally deploys for legislative races: vans to transport voters to the polls from nursing homes and public housing sites. But he could have been referring to any number of campaign basics that Morrissey, guided by a handful of local advisers rather than national consultants, has ditched because of time constraints.

"We are not doing TV. I guess you could technically make [an ad] if you can find a videographer to put it together in 48 hours," Wheeler said. "You definitely can knock doors, but we have not found that's going to be a valuable use of time."

Morrissey is relying instead on radio and digital ads to reach voters across the district, which stretches from urban Richmond through Petersburg and rural southern Virginia to the North Carolina line. He is well-known in the area as a legislator, former prosecutor, defense attorney and headline-grabbing center of many controversies, which over the years have included courthouse fistfights that earned him the nickname "Fightin' Joe" and his relationship with a 17-year-old girl who, as an adult, became his wife. Morrissey, who has picked up endorsements from Petersburg Mayor Samuel Parham and several city council members, is spending his days voicing ads, doing media interviews and raising money, but not on the scale of a typical congressional race.

Morrissey called a Thursday afternoon news conference to accuse party leaders of trying to "anoint and appoint" McClellan. Morrissey also said party leaders were trying to "rig" the contest by selecting voting locations near the homes of Bagby and McClellan, but none in Chesterfield County, where he and 24 percent of the district's population lives. The 4th District Committee later added one there, but in a red part of the county that is represented by a Republican senator — a move Morrissey called "precious."

Liam Watson, a spokesman for the state Democratic Party, didn't respond to any of Morrissey's claims but said the state party has aided the 4th District committee to "facilitate the most open, transparent, and inclusive volunteer-run process possible given the unreasonably tight, politically motivated deadline imposed by Glenn Youngkin."

Wheeler said Morrissey's campaign expects to spend less than $100,000, a pittance compared with the $1.2 million his state Senate colleague Jen A. Kiggans (R) spent in her party's primary this year on the way to unseating Rep. Elaine Luria (D) in a Virginia Beach-area congressional district.

Morrissey planned to hold a tele-town hall Thursday night. Most days, he spends 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. calling voters one by one, joining a team of 30 to 40 paid staffers and volunteers calling to share that there's a primary looming and that the senator is on the ballot.

"A long phone call is five minutes," Wheeler said, noting the efficiency of that outreach over walking door-to-door.

McClellan's 'full-court press'

With Bagby out, endorsements poured in all day Thursday for McClellan, from Democrats Sen. Mark R. Warner and Reps. Luria and Abigail Spanberger, from state and local lawmakers, and from advocacy groups, as the Democratic establishment aligned behind her. She was off to the races in fundraising too, pulling in about $100,000 by Wednesday in the first 24 hours of the operation, her campaign said.

"One hundred thousand dollars certainly blew past our expectations of what was even possible," said Leopold, her adviser.

Now, how to best use the money in six days?

"There's a huge challenge here of informing people that there is an election," Leopold said. "The election's Christmas week. Most of the time, people know there's an election the second week in November. And with the short timeline, you've got to inform people and get them out to vote, all in one fell swoop."

McClellan, who would be the first Black woman elected to Congress in Virginia, said in an interview this week that despite the truncated timeline, she found value in the ground game, relying especially on grass-roots support she has built up in the more than 16 years she's served in the General Assembly. She also built a statewide profile during her unsuccessful campaign for the Democratic nomination for governor last year.

"It's going to be a full-court press," said McClellan, who on Wednesday picked up key support from Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), a former mayor of Richmond, plus the backing of several House members in Virginia's congressional delegation. "I have pretty wide grass-roots support. We will have a ground game, and a grass-roots ground game, and a grass-tops ground game, and I think we'll just out-organize every other candidate. It'll be all hands on deck."

Leopold said that the campaign is trying to communicate its message by "meeting people where they are," and that although canvassing is part of it, with major efforts scheduled this weekend, a lot of it is digital, too. "On the radio, on the news, online, social media, text messaging — however we can get the news to people quickly, we're going to do that," he said.

McClellan had a Zoom kickoff event Tuesday night, during which more than 100 of the candidate's most avid supporters coordinated volunteers for phone-banking, door-knocking and whatever else could be done — "the bread-and-butter of retail politics," Leopold said.

There won't be time for everything, such as ordering campaign merchandise that ends up in closets or as desk decorations for years, but the campaign will get by, Leopold said.

"I don't think we'll have any shirts. This may be the kind of campaign where there's not a lot of memorabilia, but what you're looking for is a win," he said.

Asked what was on the agenda for the next day of campaigning, Leopold quipped, "Tomorrow? That's years from now."



STEVE HELBER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virginia state Sen. Jennifer L. McClellan (D-Richmond) has gotten endorsements from much of the Democratic establishment.



STEVE HELBER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virginia state Sen. Joseph D. Morrissey (D-Richmond) has been using radio and digital ads to reach voters in the district.



KATHERINE FREY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Virginia Del. Lamont Bagby (D-Henrico) speaks to reporters at the Capitol in 2019. He dropped out of the 4th District race Thursday.







FRIDAY OPINION



20TH CENTURY STUDIOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Avatar: The Way of Water" was shot on a custom camera rig, and the movie's disparate elements were combined using new computer algorithms.

ALYSSA ROSENBERG

'Avatar' proves there's nothing like the movies

What are movie theaters for? An industry deeply wounded by the covid-19 pandemic and the rise of streaming services might die without an answer.

Director Christopher Nolan and actor Tom Cruise argue that only theaters can show films as their creators intended. AMC Theaters spent $25 million to have Nicole Kidman promote cinema as community. Now director James Cameron suggests a different answer: Movie theaters are for three-dimensional alien battle whales.

To be fair, not all movies can be "Avatar: The Way of Water," which is powered both by gobs of money and Cameron's flair. Even so, the film clarifies the unique value of the cinematic experience: Movie theaters are for showing us things we've never seen before, in ways we've never seen them.

The great innovators have always known this. Buster Keaton did his train stunts in "The General," so Cruise could hang off the side of a plane. David O. Selznick and Steven Spielberg let viewers time-travel to the Union siege of Atlanta and the Allied landing at Omaha Beach. George Lucas transported viewers not just back through a fictional timeline but also to "a galaxy far, far away."

Genres such as science fiction, fantasy and superhero stories have a leg up on the "things we've never seen before" part of the theatrical mission. Humans don't coexist with giant blue aliens; we don't stride around other planets in enormous robotic exosuits; and we don't hunt hyper-intelligent whales in submarines designed to move like crabs.

But novelty is nothing without superior execution and innovation.

"You'll believe a man can fly" was a compelling tagline for Richard Donner's 1978 "Superman" because, well, Kryptonians don't walk among us. The film paid off on that promise by combining the use of sets and models, sophisticated wire-flying work and new inventions in camera technology. In "Avatar: The Way of Water," Cameron's craft and care make it possible for audiences to believe hundreds of impossible things over the course of three-plus hours.

The movie's plot is an unexpectedly appealing fusion of a cowboys-and-Indians tale from the perspective of the Indians with an episode of "Whale Wars," plus a '50s-era "Father Knows Best"-style sitcom filtered through a futurist feminist tract on reproductive technology and chosen family.

It works because Cameron and his collaborators have thought through details as ostensibly minor as the fluid transition of seafaring aliens who go from walking on land to diving into the water — where they mount giant flying-fish. The filmmakers make the effort to imagine how a futuristic whaling operation might do its bloody work. And imagination pushes technology, as it has from cinema's earliest days. "Avatar: The Way of Water" was shot on a custom camera rig designed to Cameron's specifications, and the movie's disparate elements were combined using new computer algorithms.

Pulled in by a combination of 3D cinematography and the use of high frame rates that makes the artificial images seem hyper-real, viewers can give themselves over to the mash-up of genres and ideas at play. You'll believe a community of willowy blue lemur-people who commune with whales and dinosaurs can defeat an industrialized military.

By contrast, the scale of movie theaters exposes the lack of obsessive attention to detail or dedication to craft that can doom a half-baked blockbuster to creative mediocrity. The gulf between the water sequences in "Avatar" and the murky-to-the-point-of-incomprehensibility crucial underwater scenes in "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" makes the two films seem like entirely different art forms.

Where does that leave films without Cameron's fantastical budgets; or Cruise's commitment to wild stunts and wicked-fast jets; or the baked-in brand loyalty of Marvel's wheezing juggernaut of superheroes? Most film lovers would consider it a defeat if movie theaters survived only to become the exclusive preserve of spandex-clad superheroes and seat-shaking explosions.

Other films of 2022 offer their own answers.

Take "Tár," Todd Field's unsettling film about an orchestra conductor undone by her own arrogance and abuse of power. "Tár" is unusual not just because it takes audiences inside the perspective of a magnetic, cruel person, but because of how Field does it. The film's main character is exquisitely sensitive to sound, and in a theater equipped with state-of-the-art audio systems, the noises that bedevil her move around the cinema in uncanny ways.

Watching at home on a big flat screen hooked up to a decent soundbar, viewers will have a good experience of "Tár." In a theater, where sounds creep up on them, the experience will be great.

Then there's "Everything Everywhere All at Once," which demonstrated that a small team can still produce a film that's best experienced in the concentration-enforcing darkness of an actual movie theater.

The directing team of the Daniels — Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert — didn't need a Cameron-scale operation to execute their vision. And it's quite a vision: fanny packs as martial arts weapons; an everything bagel that's also a world-devouring oblivion portal; and a stop-motion story about maternal love starring two rocks festooned with googly eyes. Encountering the Daniels' creation in a full theater was the best moment of collective delight I had this year. And seeing it without unfolded laundry or a baby monitor as a distraction meant I didn't miss a single star in the Daniels' bizarre and appealing constellation of alternate universes. That's more than worth the price of admission.

It will not be easy to re-create a vibrant movie-going culture after covid and after streaming. "Just make better movies" isn't the prescription when even great movies sometimes bomb in theaters. But the best case for the cinema's continued existence is made by great movies from daring filmmakers. Audiences want to be astounded — and they deserve to be.

KAREN TUMULTY

Nancy Pelosi prepares for her exit — but her work will endure

Nancy Pelosi has never been an easy person to interview. Especially when the subject turns to herself. In a new documentary about the speaker of the House streaming on HBO, her filmmaker daughter, Alexandra, grows exasperated as she tries to get Pelosi to open up during a tense election season: "You are impossible to crack! You are always on message. How do you do it?"

But now that her last march leading her troops in a national campaign is behind her and her final landmark piece of legislation, protecting the right to same-sex marriage, has been signed by the president, even Pelosi recognizes that the season has come to pause, look back and take what in the legislative trade is known as "a point of personal privilege" for valedictories and reflection.

So I found Pelosi unusually expansive during a Tuesday lunch she held with a handful of female journalists. She talked about how much things have changed since her early years as a backbench congresswoman from San Francisco in an institution where only 23 of the 435 members were women; about the choices she made and the chances she took during her unlikely rise to becoming the most powerful woman in U.S. history; and about the challenges that will be faced by those who will succeed her.

Pelosi not only became the first female speaker but also exercised the power of that office more effectively than anyone in modern times — two things that once would have seemed unimaginable, even to her. So hidebound was the House when she arrived in 1987, at the age of 47 after raising five children as a stay-at-home mom, that Pelosi said she believed she would see a woman in the Oval Office before one would hold the speaker's gavel. The Democrats, who had run the House continuously since the 1950s, had established what she called a tight — and male — "pecking order." The only time she heard from anyone in the top echelon of her caucus was when they wanted her to hostess a fundraiser in California.

"You know the first time I was in the Democratic Speaker's Office?" Pelosi said at the lunch. "The first time I was in the Democratic Speaker's Office was when I was speaker."

When she made her audacious bid for a top post in House leadership — at a time when the Democrats' fortunes had turned and they were haplessly mired in the minority — the reaction Pelosi said she heard from some of her more sclerotic male colleagues was: "Who said she could run?"

"Poor babies," Pelosi added with a laugh.

When her male colleagues suggested that the women just make a list of what they wanted and give it to the guys to handle, Pelosi said she replied: "No, we've been waiting over 200 years."

Growing up the daughter of the mayor of Baltimore, Pelosi learned how to win elections, a vote at a time. And it turned out there were enough of her colleagues who also wanted to see an overturning of the old order. In the 2001 secret ballot for Democratic whip, Pelosi came out on top, by a vote of 118 to 95. Just over a year later, she became minority leader. In 2006, she drove the midterm elections strategy that



MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) on Capitol Hill on Tuesday.

won back a majority for the Democrats and made her speaker.

Later, in 2018, Pelosi would become the first speaker since Sam Rayburn to have lost the majority and then returned to hold the gavel a second time. She remained and fought for eight years in the minority, she said, because she was determined that the Republicans not be allowed to make good on their promise to dismantle her most significant and masterful legislative achievement. "That's why I stayed," she said, "to save the Affordable Care Act."

No spot in the U.S. Capitol more symbolizes that old get-along-go-along order Pelosi first encountered than the storied room in which she held the luncheon on Tuesday. Lately, it has become a favorite meeting spot for her while her grand official office is being packed up. Tucked in a quiet corridor where tourists rarely venture on the first floor of the Capitol, it is known as the "Board of Education" in which Rayburn, the Texan who served as speaker three times between 1940 and 1961, would gather a select few for bourbon and scotch after the day's business was over.

This hideaway was where Vice President Harry S. Truman was relaxing over drinks when he got an urgent call from the White House switchboard informing him that Franklin D. Roosevelt had died, putting Truman in the Oval Office. And where a 28-year-old freshman congressman from Texas named Lyndon B. Johnson got his early lessons in legislative tactics, along with the juiciest tidbits of intelligence to pass along to the New Dealers in the White House. LBJ biographer Robert Caro would later write that entree to the Board of Education was "the greatest favor Rayburn had bestowed on him."

The current speaker has had the Board of Education redecorated. Long gone are the Rayburn era's threadbare carpet, tufted chairs and portrait of Robert E. Lee. A seal of Texas still decorates one wall, but another features a bright scene of the Golden Gate Bridge and a third one a mural depicting the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote. "Tomorrow I'm having the women members to come in and see it, because it's brand, brand new," she said.

Pelosi describes today's Democratic caucus as "about 70 percent women, people of color, LGBTQ, and 100 percent courageous." She prides herself on appointing a diverse collection of committee chairs and opening the doors that were once shut to junior members — starting with the speaker's own office. "They're in there all the time," she said. "It's a different day."

Over the years, Pelosi came to hold some of her adversaries in high regard — notably, President George W. Bush, whom she considers, "despite the war in Iraq, beautiful, lovely, a wonderful person to work with." Of their work together, she said, "Many meetings in this room have been energy and other things. Nobody even knows about this room, so nobody even followed us, his secretaries or whatever."

As she prepares to once again become just another member in the House chamber, Pelosi knows what lies ahead for her fellow House Democrats, who narrowly lost their majority in the midterms, and for Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), who will take her place as head of the caucus. "I've been speaker and minority leader with three presidents — President Bush, President Obama, and President What's His Name — and then speaker with President Biden," Pelosi said, adding that being effective in the minority means putting an even higher premium on party unity, even though it sometimes means members will have to do things that are unpopular in their districts.

As for her own plans, Pelosi spoke of writing her memoirs — which seems surprising for someone who has always held things so close. "I've got to set the record straight about certain things that I'm hearing about how we did this and how we did that," she said, and launched into a harrowing story about the 2008 financial crisis, and how close things got to a complete collapse of the financial system before she finally helped muster the votes for the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program.

"I think that's why we lost the election in 2010, because it created the tea party on one side, Occupy Wall Street on the other," she said. "Everybody unhappy we've bailed out Wall Street at the expense of Main Street. It wasn't true, but that's how it was perceived."

The commentariat didn't always get things right about Pelosi, it's true, but history surely will. At the unveiling Wednesday of her official portrait, the soon-to-be-former speaker recalled the slogan of her first race for Congress: "A Voice That Will Be Heard." No one, not even Pelosi herself, could have imagined how true that would turn out to be — not only in her own time but also for generations to come.

The Washington Post
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

EDITORIALS



STEVEN SENNE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eric Rosengren in November 2019. He is one of three Federal Reserve officials who retired early after failing to disclose sizable stock trading during the pandemic.

The Federal Reserve has a credibility problem

A restoration of the public's trust is as vital as the fight against inflation.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE'S greatest resource is its credibility. People have to believe the central bank will get inflation under control — or else inflationary psychology becomes entrenched and causes years of pain. Likewise, people need to trust that Fed leaders will prioritize what's best for the nation over any personal gain — otherwise the central bank won't survive.

This year has tested both aspects of Fed credibility. On inflation, there were early mistakes, but the central bank has largely restored trust that it will get the job done. It's a different story on the ethics side: Top Fed officials made took a series of questionable actions, and the central bank's leadership has not satisfactorily reckoned with the increasingly glaring problem. In fact, Congress might have to force change; a bipartisan bill — the Financial Regulators Transparency Act — would help make this critical institution more transparent and accountable.

Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell and his fellow central bankers were regrettably slow to recognize the inflation threat, but since March they have acted decisively. Interest rates are now nearly 4.5 percent, a massive jump from January, when they were close to zero. The Fed has not hiked rates this swiftly in a single year since the early 1980s. There are encouraging signs that inflation is cooling; it hit 9.1 percent annually in June but dropped to 7.1 percent in November. The fight isn't over, but Americans believe price increases will continue to subside, and Mr. Powell has admitted his mistakes.

Where the Fed repeatedly fell short is in its leaders' conduct. Fed historian Peter Conti-Brown calls this an "unprecedented" era of ethical missteps by top officials. Numerous Fed leaders made sizable trades during the 2020 pandemic crisis, when the central bank was taking extraordinary steps to save the economy and stabilize markets. They not only made the trades, but several officials failed to file the required disclosures about them on time. When the trading was exposed, those involved expressed little regret. Three of them — former Boston Fed president Eric Rosengren, former Dallas Fed president Robert Kaplan and former Fed vice chair Richard H. Clarida — retired early, but Kaplan was willing to say only that his trades risked "becoming a distraction." It doesn't help that the Fed's inspector general still has not released its review of what Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Rosengren did.

The red flags didn't end there. In October, Atlanta Fed President Raphael Bostic suddenly revised his disclosures to show multiple transactions in 2020 during the height of the crisis as well as trades that took place during long-standing "blackout" periods before key policy-setting meetings. Mr. Bostic remains in his position. He says all transactions were done by his money manager and that he had no knowledge of them.

On top of that, St. Louis Fed President James Bullard spoke in October at a private, invitation-only event for a top Wall Street firm where no media was present, raising concerns about bankers getting insider information. He also remains in his position.

Even if all these incidents didn't violate the letter of the law, they broke its spirit and pummeled Fed credibility.

Mr. Powell deserves some recognition for significantly tightening the rules on how Fed leaders can trade. Top officials are now prohibited from purchasing individual stocks, and they must provide 45 days' advance notice of any transactions. The presidents of the 12 regional Fed banks around the country — where many of the questionable acts took place — now have to publicly disclose trades within 30 days. These new rules are among the most stringent in government.

And rightly so. "The public's trust is really the Fed's and any central bank's most important asset," Mr. Powell said in November when a reporter asked for an update on the ethics problems. Mr. Powell added that all 19 top Fed leaders who help set interest rate policies had "recommitted" to "hold ourselves to the highest standards and avoid these problems."

But Mr. Powell needs to do more than talk about a recommitment. There should be clear rules for when top Fed officials can accept speaking engagements. Perhaps the Fed could create a centralized approval process or specify that any discussion with more than five people must be open to the media.

The Fed should also have more effective oversight. Progressive Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and conservative Sen. Patrick J. Toomey (R-Pa.) rarely agree, but they have jointly written a bill that would make the central bank more transparent. It would make the 12 regional Fed banks subject to the Freedom of Information Act, require the Fed to respond to congressional ethics requests and make the Fed's inspector general a presidential appointee. (The Fed chair currently appoints the inspector general, so it's not truly independent.) Congress should pass this legislation soon, and Fed leaders should welcome it.

The Fed has confronted this year perhaps the greatest monetary policy problem in a generation, tackling inflation with painful interest rate hikes that only a central bank, insulated from political pressure and capable of taking the long view, could institute. To preserve its position at the controls of the world's largest economy, it should make restoring public trust as high a priority as fighting inflation.

Rethinking runoffs

Mr. Raffensperger has the right idea to improve Georgia's elections.

GEORGIA SECRETARY of State Brad Raffensperger (R) urged his state's legislature Wednesday to consider scrapping general election runoffs, which he describes as a logistical nightmare and an intrusion on Thanksgiving. "No one wants to be dealing with politics in the middle of their family holiday," he said. All true, but Mr. Raffensperger didn't even mention the strongest reason: The practice is a Jim Crow relic intended to dilute African American voting power.

The fact that Sen. Raphael G. Warnock (D), a Black pastor who preaches from the same pulpit the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. once did, won a second runoff last week in as many years doesn't change the history. But it might make the GOP-controlled assembly more amenable to removing the requirement that a candidate win an outright majority. A plurality in November is good enough in every other state but Louisiana.

Georgia created this system in 1964 in direct response to a surge of Black voter registration. The same legislation also required literacy tests, though the 1965 federal voting rights law struck those down. The lead sponsor of the runoff bill blamed African Americans for costing him an earlier election by voting as a "bloc" with White moderates and later admitted under oath that his proposal was motivated by racism — though the system withstood a 1990 challenge by the Justice Department.

Mr. Raffensperger expresses openness to several reforms, including ranked-choice voting, something we support. Georgia's controversial voting law last year shortened the gap between the general and runoff from nine weeks to 28 days. Because of that compressed schedule, Georgia lawmakers allowed military and overseas voters to rank candidates on their first ballot. This worked well. Why not try such an "instant runoff" for everyone?

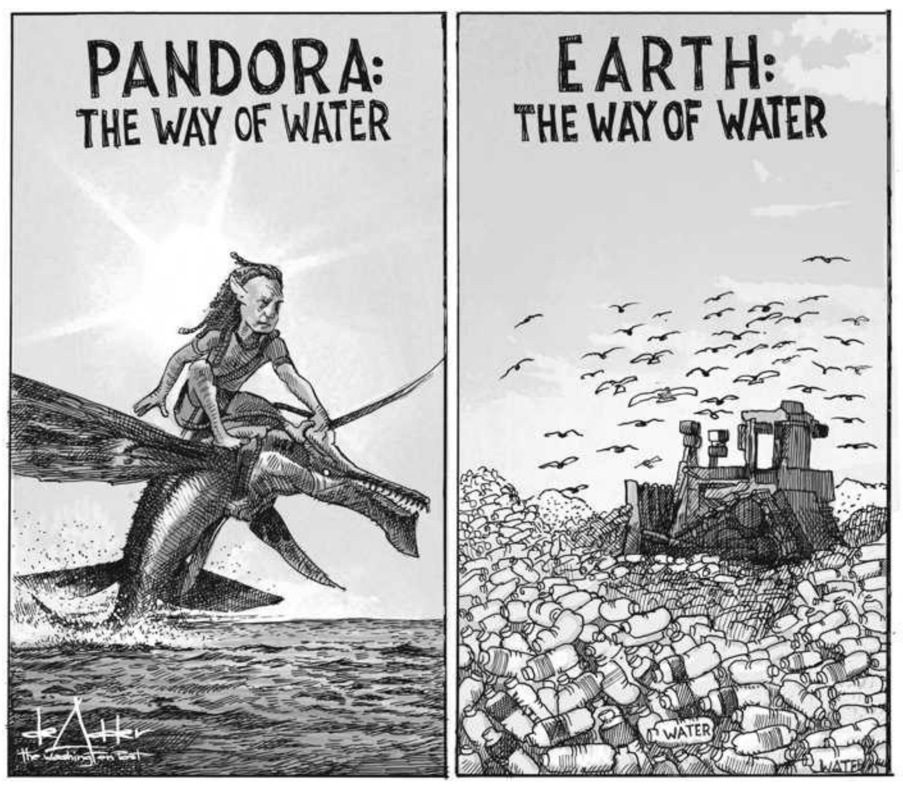
It's also economical: A recent Kennesaw State University study estimates that the 2020 runoffs cost Georgia taxpayers $75 million, although TV stations surely love the bonus advertising revenue.

Another idea floated by Mr. Raffensperger is lowering the threshold needed to win outright to 45 percent. The legislature actually did this in 1994, but Republicans changed it back because they were angry about narrowly losing a subsequent Senate race. Then-Gov. Sonny Perdue (R) signed the bill. Ironically, his cousin would have won the 2020 U.S. Senate race — and Republicans would have maintained control of the chamber — if he hadn't done so. Sen. David Perdue received 49.7 percent in the general, but Democrat Jon Ossoff overtook him in the runoff.

Whatever the motivations, and however unpredictable the consequences, we believe legislators can make voting easier while maintaining election integrity. We don't think it's fair to require Americans to vote twice to make their voices heard.

Ultimately, more than 3.5 million Georgians cast ballots in this month's runoff, about 90 percent of general election turnout. "Just because people endured long lines," Mr. Warnock said in his victory speech, "doesn't mean that voter suppression does not exist." At a minimum, we hope the legislature resists any temptation to make voting harder when it reconvenes in Atlanta on Jan. 9.

MICHAEL DE ADDER



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@washpost.com

Bad analogies and bad policy

Regarding the Dec. 7 Style article "Restaurant in Va. refuses to seat Christian organization":

Victoria Cobb, president of the Family Foundation, noted the double standard of liberals who insist a Colorado baker should make wedding cakes for gay couples yet who condone ejecting Christians from restaurants. The Post then quoted "legal experts" to shoot down the analogy — except The Post cited only one expert: a cherry-picked liberal.

The expertise of the "expert" is questionable. Law professor Elizabeth Sepper insisted the issue is "not about Christian vs. non-Christian." Of course it is. The Christian views of the Family Foundation are the very reason the restaurant refused to seat its members. Discrimination based on religion is a fundamental violation of civil rights.

Ms. Sepper's logic was so tangled, she contradicted herself. The restaurant's refusal, she said, "is about the overall positions and policies" of the group — i.e., religious beliefs. She then said, in The Post's words, that "the restaurant's refusal had to do with the group's actions." Which is it? Action or belief?

Moreover, Ms. Sepper's "actions" defense wouldn't hold up in court. By her logic, a restaurant could refuse to seat gay people based on their "actions": having sex with people of the same sex. In fact, you could apply her "actions" defense to any group, but it would be just as unconstitutional.

I disagree with the views of the Family Foundation. Instead of cheerfully welcoming its members, however, the restaurant missed a golden opportunity to change their minds. Now the foundation will associate gay people with intolerance.

Gary Parker, *Washington*

Food for thought, not housing

"Let them eat concrete!" That's an inference I made reading the Dec. 10 World article on Japan rethinking food waste and compressing and molding dry food scrap, such as coffee grounds, at high temperatures into "concrete." It was interesting to read about the use of this "100 percent edible" concrete for houses and durable furniture.

I did wonder, though, if this had been thought through when I read that these might be used as sustenance in an emergency. What about other organisms, large and small, around the house that might consume the furniture as a regular meal?

Gary Berg-Cross, *Potomac*

Admissions criteria and tests

Diversity in the physician workforce is critical to addressing health inequities in the United States, as noted in the Dec. 9 Friday Opinion commentary by Alessandro Hammond and Cameron Sabet, "Medical schools should de-emphasize standardized admissions tests."

Every medical school sets its own criteria for selecting the students who will contribute to its mission and successfully complete rigorous medical school curriculums. The Association of American Medical Colleges does not — and cannot — mandate whether or how medical schools use the MCAT exam in their admissions processes.

MCAT scores predict academic performance in medical school, and students who enter with the same score perform similarly, regardless of their background. Schools consider the MCAT exam alongside the entire application to understand the score in context.

A "pass/fail" score would disproportionately affect disadvantaged applicants who have strong qualifications but lower MCAT scores, and it would undermine the unique admissions priorities of different medical schools.

The AAMC recognizes the urgency of increasing physician workforce diversity and is committed to supporting schools with this goal. We are strategically addressing these issues in addition to continuing to provide evidence-based resources for identifying capable and diverse applicants, developing affordable preparation materials, and providing financial assistance for those most in need.

David J. Skorton, *Washington*
The writer, a doctor, is president and chief executive of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Gabrielle V. Campbell, *Washington*
The writer is chief services officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Defining 'dreamers'

Ordinarily, I am on the same page with George F. Will. However, in his Dec. 12 op-ed, "How the Tillis-Sinema immigration bill would right two glaring wrongs," he jumped the shark by defining "dreamers" as aliens brought here "under age 16" and "having known no home other than America."

As a military brat, I moved with my family to a different state or country every three years. From ages 6 to 8, from kindergarten through the second grade, my family resided in Arlington. Although less than half of Mr. Will's age marker, I clearly remember every room in the home where we lived, as well as the names of our next-door neighbors, the kids with whom I played, and my teachers and schoolmates.

I recently drove through that neighborhood and had no trouble identifying where I went to school, the stores where my family shopped, and where my friends and I lived. That is a "home" that I have "known."

William W. Chip, *Washington*
The writer was senior counselor on immigration policy to the secretary of homeland security in the Trump administration.

George F. Will, in his Dec. 12 op-ed urging passage of a last-minute immigration bill, defined "dreamers" as "the 2 million . . . under age 16 when brought here by parents who were not lawfully here. They have lived under threat of deportation from the only country they have known." Almost none of those words appear in the executive order issued by President Barack Obama in June 2012 for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or in any of the Dream Act legislative proposals that have never passed. Note: The actual verb in the original documents for DACA and dreamers is "came in" (legally or illegally), not "brought in."

Though the majority of initial DACA beneficiaries came from Mexico, increasingly, the millions of potential dreamer applicants come from Asia, many overstaying legal non-immigration temporary work and foreign student permits. Some say that a potential passage of a dreamer-to-citizenship act is incentivizing visa overstayers — now the largest source of illegal immigration.

Of course, just about everyone can agree that anyone who meets the media's fantasy DACA requirements — brought in innocently, by a parent at a very early age and only knowing the United States as their country — should have an expedited process to get a green card. That obvious group could number about 500,000. It could be done in an easy-to-define stand-alone bill. But that will not happen. It has been tried but always fails because dreamers have been used by both parties as bait-and-switch for larger, comprehensive and law enforcement provisions for more than a decade. No one wants to take the dreamer leverage off the table.

Margaret Orchowski, *Washington*

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JASON WILLICK

Two court cases show Jan. 6's civil liberties toll

Is the answer to the attempted overturning of one election the overturning of another? That question is being litigated this week in Alaska, where David Eastman, a Republican and a member of the Oath Keepers, represents Wasilla in the state legislature. Eastman won reelection in November — but the seat could go to the election's runner-up if a judge disqualifies Eastman under the 1956 state constitution's disloyalty clause.

The clause bars from office anyone who "aids or belongs" to a group that advocates "the overthrow by force or violence of the government of the United States." The Oath Keepers is a small-government, right-wing group created in 2009. More than 38,000 people have reportedly paid for membership since then, according to a 2021 leak. A number of Oath Keepers played significant roles in the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol siege, and the group's president, Stewart Rhodes, was convicted last month in D.C. under the federal seditious conspiracy statute.

Eastman, an Oath Keepers member since 2010, traveled to Washington for Donald Trump's Jan. 6 speech, but he has not been charged with any crime. The disqualification lawsuit centers not on his conduct but on his affiliation with the Oath Keepers (and refusal to renounce it).

Barring Americans from elected office because of their membership in radical political organizations could violate the First Amendment's guarantee of free association. But the practical scope of the Bill of Rights has often narrowed in U.S. history in periods of heightened political tension.

Alaska's disloyalty clause has its origins in such a period, as the Alaska Beacon's James Brooks explained in a historical overview of the case. In the wake of World War II, some members of Congress feared the admission of Hawaii as a state because of purported communist influence there. As a result, Congress leaned on both Hawaii and Alaska to include disloyalty clauses in their state constitutions before their 1959 admissions to the Union, though the more liberal Hawaii later narrowed its language.

There has been debate about whether participants in Trump's effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election can be barred from office under the provision of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment disqualifying former Confederates who had "engaged in insurrection or rebellion." The Reconstruction-era analogy is a convenient one for advocates of disqualification — the McCarthy era, less so.

After all, many of the measures taken during the 1940s and 1950s to root communists out of institutions are now viewed as betrayals of American commitments to freedom of speech and association. But now the political context has changed: A liberal president has declared a global struggle between democracy and autocracy, and the government is focused on right-wing subversion in the United States.

It would not be a ringing endorsement of democracy if one of the remedies for Trump's effort to deny the American people the ability to select a president of their choice is to deny the people of Wasilla the ability to select a representative of *their* choice. But this isn't the only novel question about government power in the wake of Jan. 6 tested in an American courtroom this week.

A three-judge panel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit heard arguments Monday on the limits of one of the most serious charges federal prosecutors have brought against members of the Jan. 6 mob — obstruction of an official proceeding, which carries a maximum 20-year sentence. The three defendants in the case at issue were each charged with other crimes, including "assaulting, resisting or impeding" police. But they claim that the obstruction statute was never intended to apply to their conduct at the Jan. 6 riot.

They have a case. The statute was passed in the wake of the 2001 Enron scandal to clamp down on document-shredding. It creates criminal liability for anyone who corruptly "alters, destroys, mutilates or conceals a record" or "otherwise obstructs" a proceeding. The legal merits hinge on the interpretation of the word "otherwise," but the history and context of the statute suggest that Congress was primarily concerned with protecting the integrity of *investigations*, not any proceeding, from interference.

A basic principle of due process is that criminal laws must be clear. But according to the defendants' brief, signed by a Pennsylvania public defender, the government created a "novel interpretation" of the statute when applying it to Jan. 6 defendants. This interpretation could expand the range of criminal laws available to punish political activists. Did the protests in Senate buildings during the Kavanaugh Supreme Court confirmation hearings, which led to hundreds of arrests, corruptly obstruct congressional proceedings?

Jan. 6 was an especially threatening event. But as the history of Alaska's disloyalty clause reminds us, civil liberties tend to contract in times of threat — often genuine threat — to the political system. That's no guarantee of how the government's new powers might be used when political coalitions change and new threats arise.



OLIVER CONTRERAS/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, President Biden and Macky Sall, Senegal's president, in D.C. on Thursday.

EUGENE ROBINSON

In a 'new scramble for Africa,' Africans must come first

Much of this century's history will be written in Africa. The summit President Biden hosted this week with 50 leaders from across the continent is an overdue acknowledgment of that fact.

"When Africa succeeds, the United States succeeds," Biden said Wednesday in a keynote address to the gathering. "Quite frankly, the whole world succeeds as well."

But in this "new scramble for Africa," success should be defined by Africans themselves. And investing in the continent can't mean simply importing American values; it requires recognizing the achievements, and seismic shifts, that are already underway on the continent.

The case for Africa's rising significance is undeniable. By 2050, according to United Nations projections, Africa will be home to one-fourth of the world's population; by 2075, that fraction will have risen to one-third. By 2100, the list of the 10 most populous nations on Earth will include Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Tanzania and Egypt.

No wonder countries such as China have invested heavily in relationship-building on the continent, particularly through Beijing's Belt and Road development initiatives that have helped improve many nations' infrastructure, from ports to railroads and hydropower. Biden's U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, at which he promised $55 billion in U.S. investments in Africa over the next three years as initial proof the United States is "all in on Africa's future," is an effort to catch up.

But this new race for influence needs to be about more than who gets to extract and exploit the continent's resources. It has to be about lifting hundreds of millions of Africans into the global middle class and beyond — and treating African leaders as real partners.

That is where the United States has an advantage over Beijing and Moscow. Those countries are funding the nuts-and-bolts of a modern economy. But the United States is far better positioned to help with human and societal infrastructure — health, education and good government — that move a nation from subsistence to flourishing.

The summit amply demonstrated the challenges involved in resetting the relationship between these former colonies and the new imperial powers eager to influence them.

Biden held a private meeting with six leaders whose nations will hold elections in 2023 — Presidents Felix Tshisekedi of the DRC, Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon, George Manneh Weah of Liberia, Andry Nirina Rajoelina of Madagascar, Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria and Julius Maada Bio of Sierra Leone — to discuss dangers such as foreign interference and political violence. The Biden administration plans to spend $165 million to support elections and good governance in Africa next year.

In nations across the continent, however, citizens are already demanding more transparency and accountability from their leaders. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who did not attend the summit, is fighting for his political survival amid allegations he hid at least $580,000 in cash, of unknown provenance, in a sofa at his game ranch. Ramaphosa survived an impeachment vote on Tuesday but still faces a challenge to his leadership of his party, the African National Congress.

African nations are also confronting a massive wave of urbanization, impelled by rising living standards, agricultural mechanization and climate change. Cities such as Lagos, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam are becoming megalopolises sorely in need of adequate housing, rapid transit and other expensive infrastructure. The challenges are huge, but so are the opportunities to experiment with new approaches to housing design and public transportation that could be models for more-developed countries.

African leaders are well aware that they are objects of competition. Rwandan President Paul Kagame said that his country and others will not be "bullied into making choices between [the] U.S. and China."

Nor should they be. It is in the interests of the United States, China and the European Union to invest in African nations and speed their development. Middle-class populations provide markets.

Forty-five percent of the mobile phones sold in Africa are from Chinese brands, some of them customized with language-specific keyboards and cameras adjusted to accurately render brown skin. Engineering products for African consumers is a growth business, and one that might well drive innovations that could be valuable to customers elsewhere.

Economic advancement across Africa will also contribute to global stability. Nigerians or Tanzanians or Congolese who see no future in their countries will seek — and find — ways to migrate to Europe or the United States. Well-resourced governments with adequate infrastructure can deny havens to terrorist groups such as Boko Haram or the Islamic State.

Real medical infrastructure, of the kind colonists constantly promised to build but never delivered, can ensure that diseases such as Ebola don't become pandemics. Building first-class educational institutions in Africa will pay off in discoveries and advancements we cannot yet imagine.

Colonialism has a way of reinventing itself. This new scramble must not be done to Africans but with them and for them.

JONATHAN CAPEHART

The arc of same-sex marriage rights

Before a big crowd literally chilling on the South Lawn of the White House, President Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act into law on Tuesday. The marriages of same-sex and interracial couples are now recognized and protected by the federal government. The law requires states to do the same.

Afterward, Biden handed his pen to Vice President Harris. For me, that one moment encapsulated the incredible history of this nation's evolution in support of marriage rights.

Think about it: When the Defense of Marriage Act passed in 1996 — defining marriage as between one man and one woman and banning same-sex couples from enjoying this basic family-forming right — support for gay marriage was just 27 percent nationwide. Then-Sen. Joe Biden (D-Del.) was one of 85 "yes" votes in the Senate for the discriminatory law.

Eight years later, when then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom proactively issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples, Kamala Harris, as San Francisco district attorney, was among the city officials performing some of the nation's first same-sex marriages inside that city's majestic city hall.

Then a political earthquake happened in 2012. As the nation waited for then-President Barack Obama to state his position on same-sex marriage, his vice president — yes, Joseph R. Biden — decided the time for waiting was over. Biden announced his support on "Meet the Press," and three days later, Obama followed suit.

And here came Harris again: The following year, as the attorney general of California, Harris refused to defend Proposition 8, the state's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage, against constitutional challenge. Undefended by state authorities, the measure was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*. Days later, Harris officiated at the wedding of Kristin Perry and Sandra Stier.

This march toward marriage equality culminated in 2015, when the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry. On that historic day — June 26, 2015 — we were never better as a nation. Fast-forward to this year, when Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in his concurring opinion to strike down abortion rights that the right to marry should be reconsidered, too.

The new law, passed with lightning speed (for Washington), is Congress's reply to Thomas. The Respect for Marriage Act safeguards more than 700,000 married same-sex households and reflects the progress of a nation where now 71 percent of citizens support same-sex marriage. Thus, the joyous celebration at the White House signing ceremony.

The journey to the South Lawn was a long one. It was paved with heartache and determination by myriad organizers and individuals who never stopped demanding their nation recognize them and protect them. They demanded dignity for their families and their loved ones. And, with the stroke of his pen, the president of the United States gave it to them. As an out gay Black man in an interracial marriage, I am happy the law is on the books, despite its limitations.

Watching the ceremony moved me to no end. What a remarkable display of what happens when people push to make this nation live up to its ideals — especially when the president and vice president are part of the pushing. Seeing Biden hand his pen to Harris was a beautiful way to close this particular loop in the bigger fight for the rights of LGBTQ Americans.

CATHERINE RAMPELL

Is another baby-formula shock on the horizon?

Americans keep having to learn and relearn the same sorry lesson: Protectionism makes our supply chains *less* resilient, not more. This may again become painfully evident when tariffs on baby formula return in two weeks.

For much of 2022, parents across the richest country in the world struggled to feed their babies. At the worst point of the infant-formula shortage, out-of-stock rates reached 74 percent nationally and 90 percent in a handful of states. Shortages landed some babies in the hospital.

Why were our shelves bare, when other rich countries remained flush with formula?

The proximate cause was the closure of an Abbott Nutrition facility in February after suspected contamination issues. The Sturgis, Mich., plant had been responsible for producing roughly 20 percent of U.S. formula. Some popular Abbott products were recalled, and fewer new products came onto the market.

Then anxious parents panic-bought and hoarded supplies, making shortages even worse.

After some temporary interventions from the federal government, things eventually improved, with occasional setbacks. And then the story largely faded from the headlines.

That's the simple version of events: an acute problem with an acute cause and ultimately a one-off resolution. But challenges for baby-formula supply-chain resiliency had long predated this particular disruption in Abbott's operations.

Before Abbott's Sturgis plant shut down, four companies dominated the U.S. infant formula industry, accounting for roughly 90 percent of the market. Over the years these incumbents have successfully bricked themselves off from domestic and especially foreign competition.

Congress and other regulators have created deliberate barriers to entry for foreign competitors, who have found themselves foiled by tariffs, import quotas and other onerous regulatory requirements related to product labels and other nitpicky things.

Then former president Donald Trump's vaunted U.S.-Canada-Mexico trade deal effectively shut off baby-formula imports from Canada altogether.

U.S. industry has argued that the United States must bar the door against foreign formula to protect the health of American businesses (think of the poor farmers!) and, more important, the safety of American children. Which sounds reasonable: We want to make sure the stuff we feed our babies will nurture rather than endanger them.

These regulatory hurdles have gone far beyond mere quality control, though. They have made it all but impossible to import foreign brands vetted by even highly strict regulators in other developed countries (including New Zealand, the European Union and Britain, not exactly slouches when it comes to consumer product safety).

And so, before Abbott's plant closure, less than 2 percent of infant formula consumed in the United States was imported. This was "an autarkic situation that Big Dairy and economic nationalists surely loved," writes Cato Institute scholar Scott Lincicome, "*but also* one that, consistent with reams of economic research on protectionism and supply chain resilience, made the U.S. market uniquely vulnerable to a big domestic supply shock."

Then the domestic supply shock came, and American babies went hungry.

After initially dragging their feet, U.S. officials eventually hacked away at some of this red tape. Press releases often emphasized President Biden's decision to deploy military planes to fly in more formula from abroad. But what helped restock shelves was not the mode of transportation for these shipments, but the fact that they could finally be made.

The Food and Drug Administration announced it would "exercise enforcement discretion" to temporarily allow a handful of high-quality foreign brands to be sold in the United States. This "creat[ed] more resiliency in the U.S. infant formula supply chain and reduc[ed] the risk of reliance on too few production facilities supporting the United States," the agency said.

Congress also decided to suspend tariffs on baby formula, which had been set at an effective rate of about 25 percent. Support for suspending tariffs was near unanimous in both chambers. The subsequent influx of imports helped alleviate shortages as U.S. companies worked to ramp up production.

In September the FDA decided its relaxed enforcement measures had been so successful in keeping inventories stocked that it extended them through 2025. However, following a pressure campaign from the U.S. dairy industry, Congress's temporary tariff suspension is set to expire at the end of this year.

As a result, tariffs will snap back in just two weeks, and foreign brands might ultimately be forced to exit. This could leave American babies just as vulnerable to sudden deprivation and hunger as they were a few months ago, if another unlucky shock occurs. In fact, some families are already struggling: As my Post colleague Alyssa Rosenberg and others have noted, formula remains in short supply in some parts of the country.

The president and lawmakers often talk about how much they love competition, how much disdain they have for U.S. companies trying to juice their own profits, and how invested they are in the health of American children. They have a funny way of showing it.

Destruction of Ukraine's economy raises costs for its allies

UKRAINE FROM A1

imports and unable to meet its foreign debt obligations — a doomsday scenario known as a balance-of-payments crisis.

One dire scenario predicted that Ukraine's economy could contract by another 5 percent next year, on top of the 33 percent contraction this year, according to a person familiar with the bankers' report who spoke on the condition of anonymity because it was not public.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, at an international donor conference in Paris on Tuesday, said the contraction next year could reach 9 percent depending on the severity of continued Russian attacks.

As Russian President Vladimir Putin persists with his 10-month-old war, Ukraine's survival hinges as much on outside economic aid as on donated weapons, and Putin now seems intent on making such help so costly that Kyiv's Western backers give up.

Before the infrastructure attacks began on Oct. 10, Ukrainian officials were optimistic that Western financial aid would allow them to close most, if not all, of their enormous budget gap in 2023.

The European Union and United States collectively have pledged to send more than $30 billion to Ukraine next year, though not all of that money is formally approved. On Thursday, the E.U.'s 27 heads of state and government, meeting in Brussels, agreed to provide 18 billion euros, or just over $19 billion, in loans to Ukraine next year.

Some aid promised for this year was slow to materialize, forcing Kyiv to print money and devalue its currency to ensure its economy remained competitive, contributing to a spike in inflation of more than 20 percent.

But this help, even if it does come through, is intended only to keep the country afloat day-to-day. It doesn't remotely begin to address the hundreds of billions in damage wrought by the war.

Russia's invasion has destroyed hospitals, ports, fields, bridges and other parts of the country's critical infrastructure. Agricultural exports have been decimated, despite an international accord to maintain some grain shipments. Huge swaths of Ukrainian industry are now in occupied territory. As much as one-third of the country's forests have been destroyed.

In September, United Nations officials estimated that nearly 18 million Ukrainians needed humanitarian aid. With the country on the brink of a financial cliff, some advisers to Zelensky in recent weeks weighed asking Western governments to finance direct cash payments to Ukrainian citizens, according to two people familiar with the internal talks.

Now, with energy systems decimated, Kyiv and its partners face a head-splitting challenge. Key pillars of the economy — coal mining, industrial manufacturing, information technology — cannot function without electricity or internet service. The World Bank has warned that poverty could explode tenfold. Unemployment, already close to 30 percent, is likely to climb further.

"In case of full blackouts for longer periods, we will definitely need to get more resources to avoid humanitarian catastrophe," Sergiy Nikolaychuk, Ukraine's deputy central bank governor, who attended last week's meeting, said in an interview.

The dire assessments reflect something Ukrainian officials and their Western supporters do not like to admit aloud: The Kremlin has made Ukraine's economy a pivotal theater of the war — one in which Moscow is arguably having far more success than on the front lines, where its troops have struggled.

"How does an economy function at all — while supporting the war effort — with this level of damage to civilian infrastructure? I don't think we've ever seen this," said Simon Johnson, an economist at MIT who is in communication with Ukrainian officials. "I can't think of any economy that's ever tried to do this."



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



SERHIY MORGUNOV FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

TOP: An electricity worker fixes power lines in a residential neighborhood of Dnipro, Ukraine, on Dec. 1. MIDDLE: Liudmyla Tsybulska, 26, and her daughter Zlata, 5, at their balloon shop awaiting customers during a power outage in Dnipro on Nov. 29. ABOVE: Salt and Pepper catering personnel in the cellar that they use as a bomb shelter in Kyiv, on Dec. 1. When the power goes out after sunset — before 4 p.m. these days — employees at the company work with flashlights.

"How does an economy function at all — while supporting the war effort — with this level of damage to civilian infrastructure? I don't think we've ever seen this."

Simon Johnson, economist at MIT

Life without power

Blackouts take up roughly half the workday. Valentyn Nyzkovolosov, co-owner of the Salt and Pepper catering service in Kyiv, and his partner, Andrii Boyarskyy, have their staff arrive at 5 a.m. — as early as possible under the wartime curfew in Kyiv. When the power goes out after sunset — before 4 p.m. these days — employees work with flashlights.

When Washington Post journalists arrived at Nyzkovolosov's business recently, there was no electricity. Moments later, air raid sirens sounded and Salt and Pepper's staff descended into a cramped cellar that serves as a bomb shelter. "This is the best example of the conditions that we work under," Nyzkovolosov said. During a previous alert, a few weeks earlier, explosions were heard nearby, employees said.

Ukrainians are adamant that Russia's missile attacks will not break their fighting spirit. But businesses and workers are struggling to adapt. For many, it is impossible to function without electricity.

Mining and manufacturing — which make up roughly one-fifth of Ukraine's economy — are among the hardest-hit sectors. Two of the country's biggest steel plants, located in the industrial southeast, shut down last month because of blackouts. Dozens of coal miners had to be rescued after a power failure trapped them underground.

"For large industrial and metallurgical plants, these blackouts are very dangerous," said Dennis Sakva, an energy analyst at Dragon Capital, a Ukrainian investment firm, which recently downgraded its economic forecast for 2023 to a 6 percent contraction in economic output from 5 percent growth.

"If you're in the middle of a technical complicated process with high temperatures and have a power outage, it can cause all sorts of problems," Sakya said.

Ongoing internet outages could also wreak financial havoc. Information technology, for example, has emerged as a pillar of Ukraine's economy, and was the only sector to have grown over the past year, said Mykhailo Fedorov, a vice prime minister who oversees digital transformation.

Yet due mainly to the recent attacks, the internet connectivity rate is down to 35 percent of its prewar level. Ukrainians are importing Starlink terminals for internet via satellite, but there are unlikely to be enough to manage widespread outages. And the internet disruptions impair not just the IT sector but basic public and private financial services, such as pension payments, mobile banking, tax collection and digital sales.

The biggest economic threat, however, is not a loss of connectivity but a loss of people. A lack of heat and water service during winter could set off a mass population exodus. Kyiv has already warned residents to be prepared to leave if its heat goes offline amid freezing temperatures. In that scenario, the city would have no choice but to cut off water to prevent pipes from freezing and rupturing.

In the southern cities of Mykolaiv and Kherson, authorities are urging citizens to evacuate, warning of a lack of critical services during winter. European countries are already sheltering millions of war refugees, and experts warn of a new crisis.

"You need to have a place to evacuate so many people," Sakva, the Dragon analyst, said. "When the number of affected residents is in millions or the tens of millions, that's a very hard question. I'm not sure anyone has a clear answer to it."

Pressure on Kyiv and its supporters

Ukrainian Finance Minister Sergii Marchenko was already in the midst of asking Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen for billions in aid when he first alerted her to Russia's bombing of infrastructure.

At the time, on Oct. 16, it appeared that the United States and Europe could help stave off an economic disaster in Ukraine. The Biden administration was helping to close a significant portion of Ukraine's budget deficit. The E.U., while behind on pledges, was also providing aid.

Dominated by oligarchs and perennially in need of bailouts, Ukraine was a financial mess long before Russia's invasion. Full-blown war sent its economy into a tailspin.

After Ukraine halted Russia's assault on Kyiv last spring, the immediate emergency stabilized. By summer, Western officials had even started talking about forcing Russia to pay for postwar reconstruction, which the World Bank estimated would cost $350 billion. Ukrainian officials talked up a modern-day "Marshall Plan" that would also forge closer economic ties to the West.

When he met Yellen in October, Marchenko warned that the energy attacks could unravel previous calculations, but he had no idea how bad things would get. "Even at that week, we couldn't estimate how far Russia could reach to destroy our energy infrastructure," Marchenko recalled in an interview at the Finance Ministry on Monday, shortly after he and his team took cover in a parking lot amid another air raid siren.

The Zelensky and Biden administrations were already on edge about the rhetoric from U.S. Republicans who won a slim majority in the House, including the potential future speaker, Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), who warned that there would be no "blank check" for Ukraine.

As the humanitarian needs grow, Ukrainian economic officials have sounded out Western officials about the potential for an income support program to provide roughly $50 per person per month — at a cost of $12 billion over six months, one person familiar with the matter said.

They found a cool reception, however, from Western officials who were already wary of appearing to support too much aid for Ukraine, the person said.

After the energy attacks, some experts argue the West may be doing too little, not too much.

"We're already giving them just enough to avoid hyperinflation," said Jacob Kirkegaard, a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. "But there's clearly a risk of a more serious economic contraction, and the only way to stop that will be to provide more financial assistance." But, Kierkegaard added, "I don't know if the will is there."

The Washington Post

METRO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022

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8 a.m. 42° | Noon 50° | 4 p.m. 49° | 8 p.m. 43°

High today at approx. 1 p.m. 52°
Precip: 10%
Wind: WNW 8-16 mph

THE DISTRICT

City officials are hoping promises of tax relief will help turn unused office space into housing. B2



THE REGION

Metro is extending service and waiving fares twice this month, including on New Year's Eve. B3



OBITUARIES

Marijane Meaker, 95, was a colorful raconteur who helped pioneer the genre of lesbian pulp fiction. B5



COURTESY OF RUSSELL CASSEVAH

From walking on Legos to donating them

Stunt-prone Chesapeake man uses his love of toy bricks to bring joy into children's hospitals across the U.S.

BY CATHY FREE

Russell Cassevah has been obsessed with Legos since he was 4, when his mom let him pick out his first set after a trip to the doctor's office.

As an adult, he took his love of Legos to another level: He broke back-to-back Guinness world records for walking barefoot more than half a mile up and down a path covered with sharp Lego bricks. And last year, he was a part of a five-member team that broke a Guinness world record for trudging two miles barefoot on the small building bricks. (Anyone who has mistakenly stepped on a Lego brick barefoot is wincing now.)

"The first time, Jimmy Fallon made a joke about me on 'The Tonight Show,'" said Cassevah, 38, who lives in Chesapeake, Va. "He said that I beat every dad walking to the bathroom at night. That made me feel great."



CHRISTEN SLUYTER

TOP: Russell Cassevah at the Brick Pit in Dallas earlier this year. He delivered Lego sets to two children's hospitals there. ABOVE: Cassevah, left, and Hewitt Kahana work on a Lego spaceship set at Arkansas Children's Northwest Hospital. "Building Legos with him made me feel happy," the boy said.

Walking across uneven and pointed Lego bricks "felt like my feet were on fire," he said, adding that the soles of his feet would become cut and scraped.

"I've never been a quitter, though, when it comes to Legos," he said. "I blocked out the pain and just kept going."

After his first world record, Cassevah decided he could use Legos for good: He quit his day job and began traveling the country to deliver free Legos to children's hospitals through the nonprofit he created, Little Bricks Charity. Each year, he uses donations to buy and give away more than $120,000 worth of Lego sets to 29 children's hospitals nationwide.

Almost a million people on TikTok follow the road trips he makes in his Little Bricks van, and every holiday season, Cassevah puts out a wish list for

SEE LEGOS ON B8

Tax cuts atop Va. budget wish list

YOUNGKIN HAS PRO-BUSINESS AIM

Health care, bay cleanup among spending items

BY GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER AND LAURA VOZZELLA

RICHMOND — Gov. Glenn Youngkin is proposing $1 billion worth of tax cuts as part of a wish list of changes to the two-year budget that he said are aimed at making the state more competitive.

The cuts would be on top of $4 billion in tax reductions the General Assembly approved and Youngkin signed into law this year. They would hit at a time when Youngkin (R) said he expects the national economy to face a downturn or even a recession, a prospect that many lawmakers have said makes them leery of reducing state revenue.

The proposed cuts could help burnish Youngkin's image as a fiscal conservative ahead of his potential run for president in 2024.

At the same time, Youngkin is proposing new spending for priorities such as wooing economic development, providing bonuses for teachers and law enforcement officers, remaking the state's mental health-care system, and cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay.

Youngkin said in an interview that because of economic uncer-

SEE VIRGINIA ON B4

Md. budget: Hogan warns against spending down cash stockpile. B4

Youngkin seeks crisis services 'revolution'

Proposal would give $230 million to expand behavioral health system

BY JENNA PORTNOY

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's proposed $230 million expansion in the state's behavioral health system was met with applause and questions on Thursday from reform advocates who wonder how the state will attract the hundreds of health-care providers during a historic workforce shortage.

Calling for a "revolution" in crisis services, Youngkin (R) on Wednesday proposed a wide-ranging plan to hire 30 mobile crisis teams, fund intake centers, expand mental health programs in schools and provide in-home services to 500 people waiting for Medicaid waivers.

The proposal — intended to shore up a strained behavioral health system that serves as a public safety net for people in need of care — is one of many changes, including $1 billion in tax cuts, that Youngkin wants to make to the two-year budget lawmakers will consider when they meet in Richmond in mid-January.

"We face a level of mental health and substance abuse use issues never seen before, all too often resulting in violence, suicide and murder," Youngkin said in a video of the announcement made at a suburban Richmond

SEE HEALTH ON B4

D.C. Bar lawyer calls for Giuliani's disbarment

Officials consider what he should face for Pa. suit to block 2020 results

BY KEITH L. ALEXANDER

An arm of the D.C. Bar found Thursday that Rudy Giuliani, the former New York mayor and personal attorney to President Donald Trump, violated the terms of his license to practice law in the nation's capital when he filed a lawsuit in Pennsylvania trying to block certification of the results in the 2020 presidential election.

The preliminary finding by a subcommittee of the D.C. Bar's Board on Professional Responsibility means Giuliani and his legal team will have to file additional briefs detailing his defense and his role in the lawsuit, as officials consider what discipline he should face. Robert C. Bernius, the panel's chairman, said after a private 15-minute discussion Thursday that the finding was "preliminary and nonbinding."

Hamilton "Phil" Fox III, the lead prosecuting attorney for the D.C. Bar's Office of Disciplinary Counsel, told the board that Giuliani's conduct "calls for only one sanction, and that's the sanction of disbarment."

"What Mr. Giuliani did was use his law license to undermine the legitimacy of a presidential election, to undermine the basic premise of the democratic system that we all live in, that has been in place since the 1800s in this country," Fox said.

But Bernius asked whether disbarment was extreme, noting that former D.C. administrative law judge Roy Pearson Jr. was suspended from practicing law in the city for only 90 days when he sued a D.C. dry cleaner for $54 million regarding a pair of missing pants. That D.C. case garnered national attention.

In hearings last week, Fox argued that Giuliani had "weaponized" his law license in filing the lawsuit in Pennsylvania that falsely claimed that the November 2020 presidential election in

SEE GIULIANI ON B2

This reader was right. Gun violence in the United States is not a 'tragedy.'



Petula Dvorak

It's the easiest word we reach for to describe things we often find indescribable, especially for politicians:

"We had a horrific tragedy overnight at UVA, lives were lost and families changed forever," Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin tweeted after the shooting there last month.

"We can't and won't prevent every tragedy," said President Biden after the schoolhouse massacre in Uvalde, Tex., as he strained for the right words to look toward solutions.

"Our thoughts are with their families & everyone enduring another senseless tragedy," former president Barack Obama tweeted after the 2017 mass killing at a concert in Las Vegas.

Tragedy. I've used the word hundreds of times over decades spent grappling with the precise words for human suffering — most recently when I wrote about the 10-year anniversary of the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary.



MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

People hold hands in Virginia Beach on June 2, 2019, after a deadly shooting took place at a municipal center in the area.

But this week, Timothy Kendall stopped me in the middle of my keyboard taps, re-upping a request he'd sent in a letter to the editor earlier this year: "Would The Post please, please, please stop using the utterly inadequate term 'tragedy' to refer to a mass murder?"

Readers' mail is always a fulfilling, enlightening, frustrating and occasionally soul-crushing part of the job. (Years ago, a reader mailed me a

SEE DVORAK ON B3

THE DISTRICT

Council discusses efforts on crime fighting, gun violence reduction plan

BY EMILY DAVIES

Experts say following 16 recommendations would decrease violence

Top D.C. public safety officials said Thursday that they are committed to implementing a gun violence reduction plan published earlier this year by an independent city agency, following mounting public pressure to bolster the District's crime-fighting efforts as shootings of juveniles soar.

The plan includes 16 recommendations that experts say would decrease violent crime in the near term, through investment in public health and law enforcement strategies. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council released the report in April. At the time, D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) said it was an "excellent document to build on" but that city officials were also "working urgently on a comprehensive approach."

City Administrator Kevin Donahue, who is filling in for deputy mayor of public safety and justice after his predecessor stepped down, said at a city council roundtable Thursday that the mayor "supports the plan's recommendations, and we have already begun implementing them."

He also said Linda Harllee Harper, director of the city's office of gun violence prevention, would be in charge of putting the plan into effect.

"You've got some talented, talented people in the District, who are completely capable of making this happen," said David Muhammad, executive director of the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, which developed the gun violence reduction plan. "It really is just bringing it all together."

Public safety has been a top issue of discussion among D.C. officials in recent years. The number of people killed in the city per year increased throughout the pandemic, according to police data. The uptick in gunfire has proved especially dangerous for youths, with 16 people under the age of 18 fatally shot so far this year. That number, as of Dec. 1, has more than doubled compared with the same time last year.

This year in the District, however, there have been fewer homicides compared with the same time in 2021, and violent crime has dropped over the same period in almost every category. Those trends have encouraged public safety leaders, who said they have been focused on bringing services from a number of government agencies and community groups to help quell the violence.

The plan released by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council aims to reduce the number of homicides by 10 percent compared with the previous year — a metric the city is on track to meet this year. Specific recommendations in it include establishing a "Peace Room" to coordinate immediate responses to shootings that extend beyond the police, and creating a citywide database to coordinate services between agencies.

The city has already implemented some aspects of the plan, such as convening weekly meetings of service providers to review every shooting incident. People of Promise, a program meant to funnel government services toward about 230 residents deemed most at risk of committing or becoming victims of crime, was developed in part from the plan — though officials said previously they were reviewing and revamping it after reporting in The Washington Post about its struggles.

"I have had a series of very promising discussions with the administration on implementing parts of the plan that haven't been started yet," Muhammad said. "And I am very encouraged by parts of the plan that have begun implementation, like the People of Promise."

Delano Hunter, interim director of the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, spoke about a leadership academy that has expanded from three to six schools. Nakeda Gilbert, director of learning for the D.C. Peace Academy, discussed her organization's training for violence intervention workers, who mediate conflict in D.C. streets. And Harllee Harper said she has started regular meetings with each community organization that has received funding from a government program called Building Blocks DC, which was supposed to route resources to the city's most troubled blocks.

"No city has arrested their way out of the gun violence challenge, but no city has simply programmed their way out of violence," said Thomas Abt, founding director of the Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction. "You must have both."

Donahue said the city is working on a website to track the status of the recommendations in the gun violence reduction plan, which he described as the "backbone" of the city's approach to public safety.

Peter Hermann contributed to this report.

Prosecutor calls to disbar Giuliani

GIULIANI FROM B1

that state was riddled with fraud. Those claims, Fox said, were "unfounded."

He told the board Thursday that Giuliani had a "distinguished" career as a former federal prosecutor and a former U.S. attorney in New York. But "that was 20 years ago," Fox said. "It's like there are two different people. I don't know if something happened to Mr. Giuliani or what."

Giuliani angrily characterized Fox's assertions as "political" and lacking merit.

"The fact you advocate another side in a case does not make you a traitor. I have put my life up and at risk for democracy. For him to engage in a personal attack and for you, Mr. Chairman, to allow him to do that, I consider it an outrage, and I am personally offended by it," Giuliani said.

During his testimony, Giuliani often minimized his role in the lawsuit and asserted that he had done nothing wrong.

The Republican former New York mayor told board members that other attorneys were responsible for the language in the suit and that he had little time to thoroughly investigate the allegations himself before filing it. He claimed doing so is common practice, as allegations in lawsuits often are investigated after cases are filed.

"You have to plead fraud with specificity with what you have, with what is available," Giuliani said. "But in discovery you get the additional information. This was specific enough for this stage of the pleading. That's why it's evidence and not a conclusion."

Fox disputed that.

"There was a conspiracy, and he was the head of it," he said. "It was shoot first, ask questions later. Lawyers can't do that."

Giuliani's lawsuit, filed on behalf of Trump, was rejected by a judge. And a federal appeals court refused to let the campaign file a revised complaint.

Giuliani's attorney, John Leventhal, a retired New York judge, argued that because Trump's Pennsylvania legal challenge did not go forward, there was no legal reason for Giuliani to have his law license revoked. He said Thursday that doing so would "chill any advocacy," and that the board should consider a letter of reprimand or private admonishment.

Last year, the New York state appellate court temporarily suspended Giuliani's law license on the recommendation of a disciplinary committee, after finding he had sought to mislead judges, lawmakers and the public as he helped shepherd Trump's election results challenge.

Giuliani has been licensed in the District since 1976, though his license had been inactive when it was suspended amid allegations of impropriety.

After hearing testimony over three days last week and closing arguments from both sides, the D.C. Bar allowed Giuliani to testify Thursday about his efforts to interview witnesses in Philadelphia who claimed that they were barred from viewing the opening of election ballots.

Giuliani said that he interviewed about four or five individuals but that doing so at voting sites "was very chaotic" in the hours after the election.

"It was on the verge of violence, with a lot of yelling," Giuliani said with a slight laugh. "It was like being at a Philadelphia Eagles football game."

A decision by the panel is not expected until spring at the earliest, after both sides file written responses. The panel will then make a final ruling to the D.C. Bar, which will make its recommendation to the D.C. Court of Appeals, which will issue a decision. The entire process could take a year or more.

In July, the D.C. Bar's Office of Disciplinary Counsel also levied ethics charges against Jeffrey Clark, a former Justice Department assistant attorney general who worked on efforts to overturn the 2020 election results. The board alleged in particular that Clark engaged in dishonest conduct when he drafted a letter he wanted the Justice Department to send to Georgia state officials demanding that the state legislature call a special session to examine votes in the presidential election.

Hearings in Clark's case could begin as early as next month.



MICHAEL SISAK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rudy Giuliani, former personal attorney to President Donald Trump, after a court hearing on Monday. Preliminary findings by a subcommittee of the D.C. Bar found he violated his license to practice law.

THE DISTRICT

City teachers union secures raises, passes labor contract

BY LAUREN LUMPKIN

Members of D.C.'s teachers union voted to approve a new labor contract, securing raises and other benefits for 5,500 public school teachers, officials said.

The group reached a tentative agreement with the city in late November after more than three years without a labor contract. Members voted on the measure Tuesday night and overwhelmingly supported it — 3,445 members approved and 29 teachers opposed, according to union officials.

"This is a huge win not only for D.C. educators and the respect they deserve but for their students and our school community," Jacqueline Pogue Lyons, president of the Washington Teachers' Union, said in a statement. "D.C. teachers felt insulted for having to work under a long-expired contract, but they never gave up on their commitment to their kids throughout the covid challenges and as inflation soared with no pay raises."

The contract outlines a 12 percent salary raise over four years, which will be applied retroactively starting in 2019. The system's starting pay will increase from $56,313 to more than $63,300, and salaries for senior teachers — those who have been teaching for more than 21 years and have at least a master's degree — will see their pay jump from $116,408 to around $131,000, officials said.

The agreement also includes a 4 percent bonus for every teacher, larger stipends for educators to buy supplies, additional planning time, and $1,500 stipends for some special-education teachers and hard-to-fill positions — including social workers, math teachers and psychologists.

Lewis Ferebee, chancellor of D.C.'s public schools, said in a tweet that he and Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) are "excited for another step toward ensuring our educators have the tools and resources they need to do what they love doing — creating the best possible learning experience for our students."

The contract will last through 2023, meaning the union will soon return to the bargaining table to negotiate another agreement.

"Hopefully this contract starts to heal past wounds," Pogue Lyons said Tuesday. Teacher morale sank as the negotiations dragged on — 4 out of 5 teachers indicated in a union survey this fall that they were unhappy with their jobs, and nearly half said they would probably leave their jobs in the next few years.

"When we start negotiations in the next few months on a new contract for 2024 and beyond, we look forward to a far more collaborative relationship," Pogue Lyons said. "It's imperative that we work together to improve students' learning conditions and outcomes and do what's necessary to reverse the teacher turnover crisis that impacts students directly."

THE DISTRICT

Officials offer tax relief to turn vacant offices into apartments

BY KARINA ELWOOD

They hope conversions will revitalize downtown and help housing crisis

For years, the Vanguard building in downtown D.C., once home to the Peace Corps, has sat empty. On Thursday, Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) celebrated the future of the 1960s-era Vanguard — and housing in downtown — at a ceremony kicking off the building's conversion into swanky new apartments.

After the coronavirus pandemic accelerated already rising vacancy rates in the city's central business district, city leaders are looking at alternatives to fill unused office space and attract people back to downtown. Converting commercial buildings such as the Vanguard into residences is a solution leaders have looked at for years and hoped could accomplish two things: add more housing stock to combat D.C.'s affordable housing crisis and revitalize the city's struggling downtown.

Nearly 2.5 million square feet of office space in downtown D.C. is already dedicated to residential conversion projects. But with more than 20 million square feet of vacant office space across the city — a record high — the District is actively encouraging more builders and developers to consider conversions through promises of property tax relief for new office-to-residential projects.

Draft regulations for the Housing in Downtown (HID) Abatement Program, to be released in January, will allocate $2.5 million for the abatement annually from fiscal 2024 to 2026 before increasing to $6.8 million in 2027 and then by 4 percent each year after that. The program will require 15 percent of the units to be affordable at 60 percent of the median family income — helping contribute to Bowser's mission to build 36,000 housing units by 2025, 12,000 of them affordable to families making up to 80 percent of the region's median family income, or $103,200 for a family of four.

The office-to-residential conversions are part of an effort to keep up with the shift from office-centric downtowns to mixed-use "live, work, play" communities, like those in neighborhoods such as Navy Yard and NoMa. The pitch on Vanguard's 163-unit Elle Apartments website emphasizes its work, live and play bona fides: "A dynamic offering of buzzy ground floor retail with a relaxing rooftop social scene — all within minutes of four Metro stations."

"We're not going to have as many workers downtown as we had before the pandemic. So our job is to make sure that we are getting more people downtown," Bowser said Thursday. "So this project, converting from office to residential, we think can actually be a win for the city's bottom line."

D.C. is competing with places such as Arlington and Reston in Virginia and Bethesda in Maryland, which are attracting large corporations that promise to bring thousands of residents and jobs.

The Federal City Council, a nonpartisan nonprofit working on the advancement of civic life in the nation's capital, hosted eight of the city's 13 council members on a bus tour of the region Monday morning. With stops at National Landing, Reston Town Center and Marriott headquarters in Bethesda, city leaders witnessed the booming development first hand.

"The District no longer has a monopoly over great places," said Anthony A. Williams, the organization's CEO and executive director. "The District no longer has a monopoly as a place to work. All the more reason to pay attention."

Across the country, downtowns have more vacant office spaces than the suburbs for the first time in more than 25 years, according to the CBRE Group, a commercial real estate and investment firm. CBRE estimates that there is nearly 22 million square feet of empty office space in the District. That figure was less than 2.5 million in 2000.

"We are exceeding our worst expectations when it comes to office vacancies," said Ian Anderson, senior director of research and analysis for CBRE.

Over two years after workers first made their mass exodus to makeshift home offices during the pandemic, there are doubts that the city's white-collar workforce will return to downtown offices in the same numbers as before the pandemic. As of early December, only about 45 percent of business workers in the D.C. area came into the office on any given day.

"We are exceeding our worst expectations when it comes to office vacancies."

Ian Anderson, senior director of research and analysis for CBRE

Businesses that do want to maintain offices are looking elsewhere for more modern and efficient buildings than the historic and outdated properties that downtown has to offer. Amazon selected Arlington, Va., as the home for its second headquarters, as did Boeing, Nestlé and Gerber.

"This is a good way for us to kind of understand that we can't rest on our laurels. We've got a lot of great attributes," John Falcicchio, the deputy mayor for planning and economic development, said on the bus tour. "But we've got to put things together to make sure that we keep delivering for our residents."

Residential conversions seem like an obvious use for the abundance of empty buildings, but some analysts aren't confident that they're an effective solution. Downtown offices, designed for rows of cubicles, can be difficult to transform into hundreds of bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, rooftops and amenity spaces.

And the volume of conversions may not be enough to put a meaningful dent in the District's need for housing, according to a 2019 report from the Office-to-Affordable Housing Task Force.

Nevertheless, city leaders are hoping conversions can offer some relief. Council member Brooke Pinto (D-Ward 2), proposed a measure last year that would have created a 35-year abatement program to encourage developers to convert office space in downtown to mixed-use buildings.

"As we noted, that's not going to solve all of our problems," Pinto said on the bus tour. "But it is perhaps one tool that we can utilize."

Subscriber Exclusives
The Washington Post

Let's cut to the chase: Free tickets to White Ford Bronco on December 31 at The Lincoln Theatre

Long a mere dream kicking around in the overactive imaginations of its founders, White Ford Bronco officially came into being in the spring of 2008, named after the infamous automobile O.J. Simpson rode in during his car chase with Los Angeles police. Since then, its five-member ensemble has been sparking bouts of flannel-laden, slap-bracelet-snapping, pog-playing, big-butt-loving nostalgia across the Washington, DC area. Whatever the flavor – be it alternative, rock, pop, R&B, hip-hop, or country – if its '90s, they'll play it.

See details at washingtonpost.com/my-post.



PETULA DVORAK

American gun violence is more than a 'tragedy' — it's an 'atrocity'

DVORAK FROM **B1**

plastic baggie of feces when I wrote about my struggle with my father's lung cancer. Another sent me a beautiful landscape she had painted, it's still at my desk and calms me every day.)

But what Kendall said was intriguing.

"Calling a school shooting (or a lynching, or the slave trade, or the Holocaust, or the Trail of Tears, or for that matter any deliberate murder) a 'tragedy' is like calling brain cancer a 'headache,'" he wrote.

Hmm. Okay, I'm listening.

"'Tragedies' are left in the wake of such things as hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, wildfires, accidents, epidemics, strokes, heart attacks, sudden illnesses," he wrote. And, he said, "nothing reasonable can be done to stop or prevent them. . . . The proper word for any deliberate murder is '*atrocity*.' . . . Atrocities *are* somebody's fault, often both the perpetrator's and numerous enablers', and they *can* often be stopped."

It's an unsurprising stance for Kendall, a lifelong pacifist who did prison time rather than go to Vietnam in the 1970s. Today, the Herndon, Va., resident describes himself as a retired software developer, grandfather and "unpaid practitioner of choral music composed before 1601."

But it's a profound thought, especially as mass shootings — where four or more people, not including the shooter, are injured or killed — persist. The Gun Violence Archive has logged 628 incidents so far this year, down from 690 in 2021.

Let's see what a dictionary says:



LAUREN PETRACCA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A memorial to the victims of a mass killing at a Tops Friendly Markets in Buffalo on July 26. The United States is the only country to grapple with gun violence of this type and magnitude.

A tragedy is "an event causing great suffering, destruction, and distress, such as a serious accident, crime, or natural catastrophe," according to the Oxford-informed Google dictionary.

An atrocity is "an extremely wicked or cruel act, typically one involving physical violence or injury."

That makes sense. Mass killings — especially when we look at those clearly fueled by racism, politics, homophobia, antisemitism, sexism or, simply, pure evil — are atrocious.

"Words matter," Kendall told me.

Of course. But will a semantic shift sway public opinion, framing our national bloodshed as something cruel, evil and, ultimately, preventable?

While the use of "tragedy" is not inherently political, it can be used to distance an event from its root causes. The United States is the only country to grapple with gun violence of this type and magnitude because, among other issues, Americans have seemingly endless access to guns.

The parallel growth of gun ownership and homicide by firearm in our nation is clear, and we are outliers in a world that has looked upon us in the head-shaking way we've looked at strife in other nations.

Of course, you can say that using "atrocity" is politicizing deaths. That's the default for politicians who flame anyone suggesting ways to end and prevent bloodshed each time it erupts. Would the bill banning assault weapons that is — yet again — about to expire be more palatable to a Congress fighting "atrocities?"

The distinction certainly has implications, both moral and legal.

Take a look at last year's multimillion-dollar settlement in the 2015 Charleston shooting, after the Federal Bureau of Investigation was sued by family members who said the killing of nine congregants at the Mother Emanuel AME Church could've been prevented.

Five survivors of that shooting were part of that lawsuit. Survivors may be the best sources for understanding the horror and cruelty that may set these apart from tragedy.

In grueling testimonies, those impacted by gun violence describe scenes of cruel intent. A person, armed with choices, *choosing* violence.

Words do matter. If we change the way we talk about something, will that change the way we view it — and ultimately treat it?

American language has evolved on descriptions of gender, race, ethnicity and sexuality. But will the proper use of pronouns curb bigotry or inflame word skirmishes, turning "woke" into a slur, misdirecting concern and even fuel existing hatred?

Yes and no. But — if reader responses have taught me anything — we can't control how other people react. What we can control is whether our words make someone feel more welcome, more safe, more seen.

Most of us would rather live in a world where we prosecute "intimate partner violence" rather than dismiss a "family matter"; where "pedophiles" aren't just "perverts"; where "redlining" is "systemic racism."

Small changes — over time — encourage transformation and evolution.

So when I write about the outsize, preventable, self-inflicted bloodshed that is American gun violence, I'll call it the atrocity that it is. Anything less would be tragic.

THE REGION

Metro to extend service for Commanders game, New Year's Eve

BY JUSTIN GEORGE

Agency waives fares on both days during extra hours, signaling a change

Metro is extending service hours and waiving fares twice this month for special events, including on New Year's Eve.

On Sunday, Metro trains will provide service for an additional hour to help fans get home from the Washington Commanders game against the New York Giants at FedEx Field in Landover. Fares will be waived after the game at nearby stations, transit officials announced Thursday.

While train service will run until 1 a.m., Metro officials said passengers need to be at stations several minutes before that time. The last trains operating near the stadium will depart before 12:30 a.m., transit officials said.

Metro will also offer free rides on New Year's Eve and extend service by an hour to help celebrants get home, the transit agency announced Wednesday.

The changes mark the latest signal that Metro is hoping to move beyond nearly three years of pandemic-related effects.

This weekend, the Commanders are paying Metro $100,000 to waive fares at two stations during the extra hour of service. The contribution also pays for the operating costs associated with keeping all 97 Metrorail stations open during that period.

The arrangement comes a year after many fans were left stranded after a football game, unaware that Metro was not providing extra service. Metro has long maintained a policy requiring sports teams and event organizers to pay for the cost of keeping Metrorail open beyond normal service hours.

Transit officials said people leaving the stadium will be allowed to enter the Morgan Boulevard and Downtown Largo stations. Extra Blue and Silver line train service will run during the one-hour extended service period in the direction of the Ashburn and Franconia-Springfield stations.

All other stations will be exit-only between midnight and 1 a.m.

The last trains leaving Morgan Boulevard will be a Silver Line train at 12:28 a.m. and a Blue Line train at 12:30 a.m. At the Downtown Largo station, the final Silver Line train will depart at 12:26 a.m. while a Blue Line train will leave at 12:28 a.m., Metro said.

"All customers in line at the time of closing will be accommodated," Metro said in a statement.

Metro also will offer free rides on the final four hours of New Year's Eve and extend service by an hour. It will be first time since 2016 that Metro will extend the system's hours on the holiday.

Transit officials will waive fares starting at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, until the bus and rail system closes at 2 a.m., one hour later than normal.

"Traveling by train and bus is the safest way to celebrate New Year's Eve and avoid drinking and driving in the region," Metro General Manager Randy Clarke said in a statement. "Eliminating costs and extending services are easy steps we can take to give people the power to choose Metro as their safe way to enjoy all the region has to offer."

Metro riders will not be required to tap their SmarTrip fare card or mobile app during the six-hour fare-free period, transit officials said. Normal fares and service hours will resume Jan. 1.

Metro's board directed transit leaders to provide the free trips and extended hours to promote public safety, officials said.

"We hope customers will take advantage of this offer as we look to start 2023 with less accidents and fatalities on our roadways," Metro Board Chairman Paul C. Smedberg said in a statement. "Metro is a safe way to get around and offering free rides reminds our customers that Metro is the way to go."

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) also encouraged residents to use the free service.

The decision comes a week after the D.C. Council voted to make Metrobus rides free in the District beginning July 1.

LOCAL DIGEST

THE DISTRICT

Armed men invade home in Southeast

Men armed with guns, dressed in tactical gear and claiming to be FBI agents forced their way into a residence near Capitol Hill on Wednesday, assaulted residents and stole a safe, an Audi and a Rolex watch, among other items, D.C. police said.

Authorities said they had made no arrests but were searching for four men, three of whom had firearms and a fourth who had a crowbar, according to a police report. The break-in occurred about 6:10 a.m. in the 1700 block of Bay Street SE, which is lined with duplexes and sits a few blocks from RFK Stadium.

Police said in a report that the men, who also carried flashlights, used the crowbar to force their way into the home through the front door. Once inside, the police report said, the men "stated that they were the FBI."

Police said two of the occupants escaped and called police. Three of the victims live at the Bay Street residence, the report said, and two have addresses elsewhere in the District and in Maryland.

Efforts to reach the occupants were not successful.

According to the police report, the items taken include a red iPhone, a black safe, $3,300 in cash, a silver Audi Q3 sedan and a Rolex watch valued at $12,000.

— Peter Hermann

MARYLAND

1 dead after shooting in Prince George's

A person was fatally shot Wednesday night in Prince George's County.

Police identified the victim Thursday as Lomax McIntyre, 34, of Capitol Heights.

On Twitter, county police said the incident happened in the 6700 block of Walker Mill Road near Addison Road South in the unincorporated section of Capitol Heights.

Officers responded to a reported shooting about 9:10 p.m. in a parking lot and found evidence of a shooting, but they did not locate a victim. Minutes later, they were notified of a victim in the 5900 block of Marlboro Pike nearby, police said.

McIntyre died at the scene, police said.

According to an initial investigation, he had driven away for help after being shot at Walker Mill Road.

An investigation is ongoing, police said.

— Dana Hedgpeth and Jasmine Hilton

LOTTERIES

Results from Dec. 15

DISTRICT

Day/DC-3:	7-3-2
DC-4:	5-5-7-4
DC-5:	3-7-7-4-2
Night/DC-3 (Wed.):	8-3-5
DC-3 (Thu.):	7-6-2
DC-4 (Wed.):	8-2-1-9
DC-4 (Thu.):	5-6-0-6
DC-5 (Wed.):	1-7-1-6-5
DC-5 (Thu.):	5-5-4-3-3

MARYLAND

Day/Pick 3:	2-0-7
Pick 4:	4-0-4-8
Pick 5:	1-7-1-6-2
Night/Pick 3 (Wed.):	1-3-3
Pick 3 (Thu.):	1-7-9
Pick 4 (Wed.):	2-9-7-5
Pick 4 (Thu.):	2-6-0-0
Pick 5 (Wed.):	8-1-6-2-4
Pick 5 (Thu.):	9-2-7-5-5
Multi-Match:	1-2-6-14-33-42
Bonus Match 5 (Wed.):	10-14-15-20-35 *8
Bonus Match 5 (Thu.):	6-7-22-27-35 *20

VIRGINIA

Day/Pick-3:	9-2-4 ^8
Pick-4:	5-3-3-4 ^0
Night/Pick-3 (Wed.):	2-3-0 ^7
Pick-3 (Thu.):	7-0-9 ^7
Pick-4 (Wed.):	4-3-6-8 ^6
Pick-4 (Thu.):	3-6-6-8 ^6
Cash-5 (Wed.):	11-12-15-17-21
Cash-5 (Thu.):	1-7-10-16-41
Bank a Million:	8-10-14-17-20-32 *11

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Cash 4 Life:	5-8-11-14-29 ¶3
Lucky for Life:	2-10-19-35-46 ‡15
Powerball:	36-51-59-66-68 †25
Power Play:	10x
Double Play:	3-12-24-40-57 †19

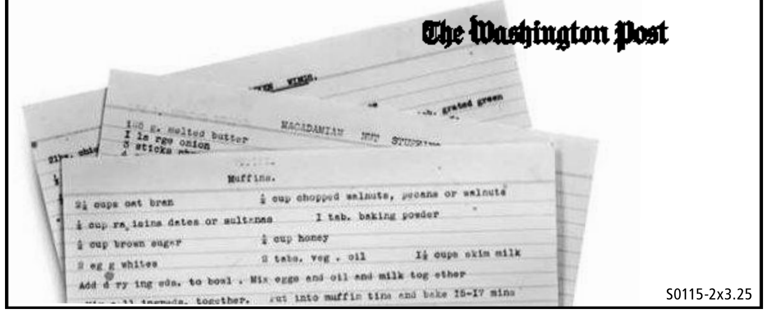
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¶ Cash Ball ‡Lucky Ball ^Fireball

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The Washington Post



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SUNDAY PREVIEW

ARTS & STYLE



Illustration by David Milan for The Washington Post

The Best of 2022

Our critics' picks for the year's best movies, music, television, theater and more.

BUSINESS

Party on: In-person office holiday gatherings are making a comeback at an awkward time, as the tug-of-war over hybrid work continues, and the specter of recession, layoffs and hiring freezes looms.

Some stories may not run due to breaking news.

No Magazine this week

The Magazine is not publishing this week.
The final issue of the Magazine will be next week, Sunday, December 25.

22-0933

The Washington Post

MARYLAND

Hogan urges new legislature not to drain state's large surplus

Incoming leadership can rewrite budget under 2020 amendment

BY ERIN COX

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan on Thursday unveiled a preliminary budget with large investments in mental health facilities and warned the incoming administration that it would be unwise to spend down the state's large cash stockpile.

His proposal could serve as building blocks of what Gov.-elect Wes Moore presents to the General Assembly in January and largely represents the needs of state agencies, but Hogan chose to release his plan publicly and highlight some of his own priorities.

The final budget will go through a process unlike any Maryland has had before: Starting next year, the legislature can rewrite budgets, thanks to a state constitutional amendment that passed in 2020 after years of Democratic lawmakers tussling with Hogan over spending choices.

"It would be a mistake for the legislature to use its newly expanded budgetary power to return to its old habits of raiding the rainy day fund or recklessly spending down the surplus," Hogan told reporters at an Annapolis news conference. Maryland has a $2.5 billion surplus, plus another $3 billion in its "rainy day" savings account.

Hogan (R) spelled out proposals for community grants, hospitals, police retention and the environment, among other initiatives. But he did not recommend using the huge pool of extra cash to finance tax relief, which had been a chief priority for his administration.

"Obviously, we could recommend that they continue that trend, but I'm not sure that they have the same philosophy as us," Hogan said of the incoming administration.

Moore, a Democrat, will take over with a General Assembly that holds even larger Democratic supermajorities than the ones Hogan faced during his two terms.

Maryland has seen record budget surpluses since the pandemic began.

Infusions from billions in federal aid — both directly into state bank accounts and indirectly circulating through the economy from stimulus checks — has left the state with enormous sums to spend for three years in a row.

Previous surpluses have gone to an array of construction projects, checks to the working poor, the state's education system and many other destinations. Hogan proposed keeping the state's savings account — its "rainy day" fund — at almost 2.5 times the amount recommended by budget experts.

He also pitched hospital projects, including $100 million for upgrading a University of Maryland Medical System facility in Easton, on the Eastern Shore, and $100 million for Sheppard Pratt to expand mental health services, including a new children's hospital for mental health in Towson. Hogan proposed another $10 million for a Hagerstown osteopathic medicine facility run by Meritus Health, plus $10 million for a new pediatric center in East Baltimore run by the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

The governor also highlighted nearly $6 million targeted to address hate crimes and acts of anti-semitism, with $5 million headed toward local governments and $800,000 to the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism to create a training program focused on Asian American issues and communities.

Hogan said his administration has been working with members from Moore's transition team in developing the proposal. Brian Adam Jones, a Moore spokesman, said in a statement: "We appreciate Gov. Hogan's suggestions."

Moore campaigned on an inclusive message to "leave no one behind" and end systemic problems such as child poverty and income inequality, arguing that the state's huge surplus could finance sweeping change on difficult problems.

"Our current fiscal position demands that we are strategic, intentional, and responsible," Jones's statement continued, suggesting the administration would have a different proposal.

Jones said the next administration's budget will reflect "Moore's vision and priorities to move Maryland forward with bold and disciplined investments in transportation, strengthening our competitiveness, and providing Marylanders with a world-class education."

Responding to a reporter's question, Hogan said he would refrain from criticizing the new administration if it moved the state in a different direction.

"I'm very content that we've completed the job that we set out to do, and I wish them the very best in their future endeavors," he added. "But I don't think I'm going to spend my time commenting on their actions."

Hogan is contemplating whether to launch a presidential campaign after he leaves office.

Youngkin seeks additional $1 billion in tax cuts

VIRGINIA FROM B1

tainty, he has designed his spending plan as an "accordion budget" that can expand or contract if conditions change. Out of some $3.6 billion in tax cuts and "targeted spending," he said, $1 billion "is conditioned on hitting our [revenue] numbers on June 30. That's the way we budgeted our businesses when I was running the Carlyle Group."

Youngkin stepped down in 2020 as co-chief executive of Carlyle, a private equity investment firm, as he prepared to run for governor.

Youngkin outlined his proposals Thursday morning to members of the General Assembly's money committees, who will consider them as amendments to the state's two-year spending plan when the legislature convenes its next session Jan. 12.

The governor wrapped up his presentation with a call for bipartisan cooperation — but with a nod to the fact that the General Assembly will face sweeping elections next fall.

"I want to ask you to join me over the next months in the spirit of partnership," Youngkin said in his speech. Or, he added, "will you be bogged down by the partisan rancor of an election year?"

He followed that question with what could be seen as a political comment of his own, noting that "the spirit of Virginia is alive and well" — Spirit of Virginia being the name of his political action committee.

Youngkin will need Democratic support because that party controls the state Senate and could block any of his initiatives, while Republicans control the House of Delegates.

"I think . . . we have a good beginning spot with this budget," said Sen. Janet D. Howell (D-Fairfax), co-chair of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations. The ambitious tax cuts, though, "will become very controversial," she added.

"We have a long list of unmet needs in this state" that should be addressed before cutting state revenue, Howell said, mentioning higher education and teacher pay as areas that need attention. "We need to dig into the numbers and see what we can do. But this was a good beginning."

Other Democrats immediately pushed back on the plan.

"Youngkin speaking about the importance of teachers is the definition of irony," Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax) tweeted with a reference to some of the governor's complaints about K-12 education, which led to his short-lived tip line for reporting on teachers who promote "divisive concepts" in the classroom. "It's as if he hasn't heard his own rhetoric for two years going back to his campaign."

Youngkin is proposing to increase the standard income tax deduction for an individual to $9,000, or $18,000 for married couples filing jointly, which would accomplish a campaign promise to double those amounts. Earlier this year, the General Assembly got most of the way to his goal, setting the deductions at $8,500 and $17,000.

Youngkin also would decrease the top marginal tax rate to 5.5 percent from 5.75 percent, a savings for higher earners that would come at a cost to the state of $330 million in the current budget and $700 million per year thereafter, according to Youngkin administration staff estimates.

But that proposal is one of Youngkin's "accordion" items: It would only go into effect if the state meets revenue estimates.

In addition, Youngkin is proposing to make up to $10,000 of military retirement pay deductible for all veterans with no age requirement. This year, the General Assembly approved his proposal to exempt that amount for veterans 55 and older.

His budget plan also would cut the state corporate tax rate to 5 percent from 6 percent, at a cost of $362 million in the current budget and $340 million a year thereafter, according to Youngkin aides. Youngkin also proposes creating a new 10 percent income tax deduction for certain small businesses.

Youngkin and his staff described the budget plan to reporters Wednesday evening on the condition that they not be published until after he officially unveiled them the next morning.

"We accomplished a lot this year and I'm pleased with the big steps we've taken, but we've got to do a lot more and a lot faster," Youngkin said in the interview. "This is all about delivering for Virginians. It's about competing to win, not just competing."

Youngkin pointed out that the state has a budget surplus of $3.6 billion and said he wants to invest it in job creation and attracting businesses to boost the economy. He proposes adding $450 million to Virginia's $150 million fund for acquiring and preparing major sites for business development — but said $250 million of that increase would be conditional on state revenue performance.

His proposed amendments include a plan to consolidate workforce development efforts into a single new agency, uniting programs that now stretch across several departments.

Youngkin also proposes spending nearly $428 million on public education to add reading and math specialists to certain K-12 grades to offset learning losses suffered during pandemic shutdowns and to pay for "lab schools," which are his idea for partnerships between classrooms and institutions of higher learning.

He is proposing about $170 million in additional state spending for recruitment and performance bonuses for what Youngkin calls "quiet heroes": teachers, nurses and members of law enforcement.

And Youngkin is proposing two major new initiatives: $233 million to overhaul the state's troubled behavioral health services system, and $674 million to complete the state's goals of cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and fund other environmental programs.

A few items are notable for not being included in Youngkin's spending plan. He made no effort to revive his goal to eliminate the 1 percent tax on groceries that localities may levy; earlier this year the General Assembly cut the state's 1.5 percent grocery tax. And there is no mention of Youngkin's earlier unsuccessful efforts to suspend the state's gasoline tax.

There is also no extra money for affordable housing programs, despite the fact that Youngkin has identified the need to increase access to affordable housing as a priority. Instead, Youngkin said he wants to work to change policies in localities to open more land for development.

"Our affordable housing initiatives are very focused on transparency and incentivizing faster work at the local level when it comes to permitting," he said.



DANIEL SANGJIB MIN/RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) speaks at Parham Doctors' Hospital on Wednesday. His budget proposal includes $233 million to overhaul the state's troubled behavioral health services system.

Va. governor unveils plan for expanded behavioral health services

HEALTH FROM B1

hospital. "The behavioral health crisis is not unique to Virginia but let's be clear, here in Virginia we are in crisis."

Virginia's state-run psychiatric hospitals have been stressed for years. Officials last year closed several public hospitals to new admissions when the pandemic exacerbated overcrowding and staff shortages. Youngkin's plan aims to provide precrisis, crisis and recovery services to patients before they need inpatient psychiatric care.

On Monday, his office created a Prompt Placement TDO Task Force to quickly find services for people court-ordered to crisis care who often languish in emergency departments for days, require constant law enforcement minding and may be transported far from their families and support systems when a bed is available.

Youngkin announced his behavioral health initiative, called Right Help, Right Now, at Parham Doctors' Hospital, a campus of Henrico Doctors' Hospital, operated by HCA, which hospital officials say is the largest private provider of mental health care in the state.

Public and private hospitals have been at odds over who is responsible for patients with nowhere to go; private hospitals admit the highest number of patients in crisis, but mental health advocates say they avoid the most challenging cases, leaving a state hospital to handle violent and agitated patients.

Youngkin said the scale of the problem is huge: jails, emergency departments and hospitals are seeing too many people in crisis, and law enforcement, teachers and health-care providers are overwhelmed. He lamented Virginia's ranking of 48th in the nation in youth mental health, which plummeted from 21st the previous year, according to data from Mental Health Virginia. The rating is based on several factors, including the number of young people with at least one major depressive episode in the past year, the number of those who did not receive mental health services and the number with private insurance that did not cover mental or emotional problems.

Virginia's reform efforts have long been driven by tragedies that thrust the state into the national spotlight: a high-profile shooting in 2007 by an unstable undergraduate student who killed 32 people at Virginia Tech; the 2013 suicide of state Sen. R. Creigh Deeds's son, Gus, who attacked his father after efforts to secure emergency mental health treatment fell through. Last month, a man colleagues said displayed troubling behavior fatally shot six people at a Chesapeake Walmart.

John Littel, Youngkin's secretary of health and human resources, said in an interview Thursday that the plan was informed by months of meetings, surveys and a comprehensive review of recommendations of the Behavioral Health Commission, informally known as the Deeds Commission. In the fall, the state hired McKinsey consultants to complete the work.

The plan is inspired by the Arizona model, which links crisis hotlines, mobile crisis units and intake centers like the kind Youngkin proposes expanding to deliver care in the first 24 hours of a mental health emergency, Littel said.

Littel acknowledged staffing would be a challenge but said it's too soon to say how many people must be hired; a detailed implementation plan is scheduled to be completed early next year, including a dashboard tracking initiatives.

"We recognize that it's going to take some really extreme efforts to ensure that we have a pipeline," he said. "I don't think we have any magic wand here."

Anna Mendez, executive director at the Haven, a day shelter and homelessness services provider in Charlottesville, said she was hesitant to downplay the potential for transformative change but noted that next steps would be critical. For example, although the plan includes $8 million for housing for 100 people with serious mental illness, she said that without qualified discharge planners to place clients "100 new slots won't matter."

"What is left to be determined is are we willing to invest in paying people enough money that they're going to want to do the work to make this happen," she said.

Deeds (D-Bath) said he was impressed by the level of engagement from Youngkin, who called him Saturday to fill him in on the plan, but said two or three times as much funding is needed to address the dearth of services, including the workforce shortage. Statewide, the agencies that form the spine of Virginia's public behavioral health system, community service boards, have a 28 percent vacancy rate, he said.

Last year, about $100 million for behavioral health, including $37 million in CSB pay increases, was cut out of the final budget in compromises made to achieve the governor's tax cut, Deeds said.

He questioned if the scope of the plan was sacrificed to pay for part of his proposed tax cut.

"He says we're going into a recession, so their idea maybe of a big, bold plan has to be looked at in that context," Deeds said. "They want to do other things so this plan doesn't appear as bold as maybe they would want it to be."

Deeds said he hopes Youngkin's plan is the floor of what the legislature will spend on bolstering public behavioral health services.

"I will work like the devil for more," he said.

VIRGINIA

Parents of students with disabilities win legal fight on masks

BY HANNAH NATANSON

Parents of students with disabilities in Virginia public schools have won the right to require that their children's peers and teachers wear masks, after the state government agreed to a settlement with several families who had filed a lawsuit challenging a statewide mask-optional policy.

The parents of 12 immunocompromised students with disabilities filed suit in February over an executive order issued by Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) and a subsequent state law, both of which forbid school districts from requiring mask-wearing as a coronavirus mitigation measure. The parents, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, alleged that the imposition of mask-optional guidelines violated national disability law by making it impossible for their children to attend school safely to receive their federally guaranteed free and appropriate public education.

On Monday, Virginia state officials agreed to settle the case with the plaintiffs, whose children attend 10 different school districts, range in age from preschool to 11th grade and who have conditions including asthma, Down syndrome, cystic fibrosis, cancer and diabetes, all of which put them at higher risk for coronavirus infection. Under the 11-page settlement, the state Education Department has agreed to issue guidance to Virginia's 130-plus school districts informing them that students with disabilities shall be granted universal masking in their classrooms, if their families request it.

"The school must engage in the interactive process with the student and his or her parents to determine … whether some amount of masking is necessary to satisfy" federal disability law, that guidance will read. "The school must not require a student with disabilities to be segregated or excluded solely because of his or her need for peer masking as a necessary reasonable modification."

"We're hopeful that every school in Virginia will view this settlement as a sign that they should make similar accommodations for their students," Eden Heilman, legal director of the Virginia ACLU, said in a statement.

A spokeswoman for Youngkin wrote in an email Thursday that "this was a fair settlement for all."

The judge in the case, Norman Moon, has not yet approved the settlement, although he is almost certain to do so. In March, Moon issued a ruling favoring the plaintiffs — asserting that the particular schools their children attended must be allowed to mandate face masks if necessary to protect the immunocompromised students involved in the suit. The case was filed in federal court in Charlottesville.

The settlement released this week also says Virginia will pay the families who sued $295,000 "in full and complete satisfaction of any and all claims, allegations, or causes of action for attorney's fees, costs, disbursements, and expenses incurred."

Youngkin issued his mask-optional order as one of his first actions in office.

It was immediately controversial, drawing lawsuits and dividing families, schools and students. A majority of Virginia public schools opted to disobey the order and continue mandating masks for weeks, according to a Washington Post analysis. Seven prominent districts sued to halt the order.

Amid the chaos, state lawmakers passed a bill that required schools to make masks optional, which Youngkin signed in early March. After that, Virginia school districts dropped their mask requirements, some of them reluctantly.

Tasha Nelson, one of the parent plaintiffs in the suit, said in a statement that the settlement this week is "a step toward righting a wrong."

She added: "Children like mine should not be told they cannot participate safely in school."

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MARYLAND

Man found guilty in Annapolis murder

Mother of midshipman was killed in 2021 while visiting for Induction Day

BY DAN BELSON

Jurors in Annapolis found Angelo Harrod guilty on all counts Tuesday for the June 2021 shooting death of 57-year-old Michelle Cummings, the mother of a Naval Academy midshipman, following a two-week murder trial.

Harrod, 31, was convicted of first- and second-degree murder for Cummings's death, as well as attempted murder and conspiracy for his role in the Pleasant Street shooting, in which a stray bullet killed Cummings, who was in town for her son's Induction Day.

Jurors deliberated for four hours Monday and Tuesday, and delivered their verdict just after noon Tuesday to Anne Arundel Circuit Judge Pamela K. Alban.

Harrod will be sentenced Feb. 24 and faces a mandatory minimum sentence of life imprisonment. Prosecutors have filed notice that they will seek a sentence of life without parole.

Michelle Cummings was the mother of Trey Cummings, now a sophomore at the academy who plays offensive tackle on the Navy football team. A Houston resident, Michelle Cummings was "all in" and excited to support her son's journey through the academy, friends said after the shooting.

Her husband, Leonard "Truck" Cummings Jr., stayed in Annapolis to watch the trial. He said he was looking forward to attending Harrod's sentencing.

"When we watched it unfold in the courtroom, it was amazing," Cummings said outside the courthouse Tuesday afternoon. "Just keep us in your prayers as we move forward."

Michelle Cummings was killed by a single gunshot to the chest shortly after midnight June 29, 2021. Friends testified that she and her husband had joined them on the patio of the Graduate Hotel that evening to celebrate the start of their children's careers at the Naval Academy. The evening was interrupted by the sound of gunfire. Then Cummings fell to the ground.

"What happened to Mrs. Cummings, an innocent victim, could have happened to any of us," Anne Arundel State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess said outside the courthouse.

Prosecutors Jason Steinhardt and Carolynn Grammas argued that Harrod killed Cummings when he and an unnamed individual fired several rounds at a vehicle occupied by Breonna Barnes and R.J. Atwell, who had been on a date and were parked at the end of Pleasant Street. Throughout the trial, neither prosecutors nor police identified the second person said to be involved in the shooting.

Several bullets struck the vehicle, and one passed through a wooded area before entering the patio area of the Graduate Hotel and striking Cummings, multiple police witnesses testified.

Barnes and Atwell were not injured in the shooting. The prosecutors said during their closing statements that multiple bullets came within inches of hitting the couple.

Over 10 days of testimony, the prosecution used a combination of surveillance footage, DNA evidence and cellphone records to identify Harrod as one of the two men seen shooting at the vehicle.

"What occurred today will never bring Michelle back," Annapolis Police Chief Edward Jackson said at a news conference Tuesday. "But she will forever be in our thoughts and our prayers."

Outside the courthouse, Howard Cardin, a defense attorney for Harrod, said the case was "well tried," and said the defense's efforts to refute evidence were not enough. He said his client had asked him to file a motion for a new trial, which must be done within 10 days.

During the trial, Cardin argued that the surveillance compilation was "manufactured" by police and prosecutors to point to Harrod. He told jurors that police had "blinders" on from the moment a family member identified Harrod on a still from the footage.



DAN BELSON/CAPITAL GAZETTE



ERICA DANIEL

ABOVE: Leonard Cummings Jr., widower of Michelle Cummings, embraces Assistant State's Attorney Carolynn Grammas after the trial in his wife's killing. LEFT: A portrait of Leonard and Michelle, who was killed while in Annapolis for her son's Induction Day at the Naval Academy.

Prosecutors never established what motive Harrod had to shoot at Barnes and Atwell. Barnes testified that she did not know Harrod at all, and Atwell did not testify. He was seen on police body-camera footage saying that he wasn't "a rat" and didn't know anything about the shooting.

"Motive is not in any murder count; that's why we say this was a 'senseless' attack," Leitess told reporters. "Mr. Harrod knows the intent."

During closing statements, Cardin argued that Atwell's connection to the shooting left a hole in the case that "deserves further investigation."

Although investigators say there were two shooters involved, Harrod is the only person who has been charged in Cummings's death. The prosecutors did not identify the second shooter in court but named several people who were seen on surveillance footage interacting with Harrod that evening.

"I can't answer as to why nobody else was charged," Cardin said after the trial. "It certainly is not helpful."

Leitess said the matter was still under investigation.

Harrod was arrested on an outstanding warrant less than 24 hours after the shooting that rocked Annapolis during the Naval Academy's Induction Day, one of the city's most popular summer events. Since he was charged later in Cummings's killing, he has been held without bail.

"We are here to support the Cummings family," said Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley (D). "No one deserves this kind of violence in their neighborhood. This violent person is off the street, and Annapolis is safer because of it."

Cardin did not call any witnesses during the trial, resting his case Monday morning immediately after the prosecution.

After the verdict was delivered, prosecutors elected to drop a charge alleging Harrod illegally possessed a firearm. Jurors did not know about the charge or consider it in their deliberations.

Alban had ruled that considering the charge would require the trial to resume after the initial verdict. Telling jurors about Harrod's previous conviction that barred him from possessing a firearm could have led to bias within the jury, she said.

The trial took place in the largest courtroom in the circuit courthouse. The room was nearly full when the verdict was delivered and remained quiet as the jury's foreperson read it. Afterward, Harrod briefly conversed with his family before being whisked away to a holding area by sheriff's deputies.

"He didn't . . . do it," one family member said while leaving, adding an expletive.

"We're coming back," another said.

— Baltimore Sun

OBITUARIES

MARIJANE MEAKER, 95

Lesbian fiction pioneer took on many genres, pen names

BY HARRISON SMITH

Marijane Meaker, a witty and incisive author who wrote dozens of books under multiple pen names, but who was best known for helping pioneer the genre of lesbian pulp fiction and for writing sensitive and realistic young-adult novels, died Nov. 21 at her New York home in Springs, a hamlet in East Hampton. She was 95.

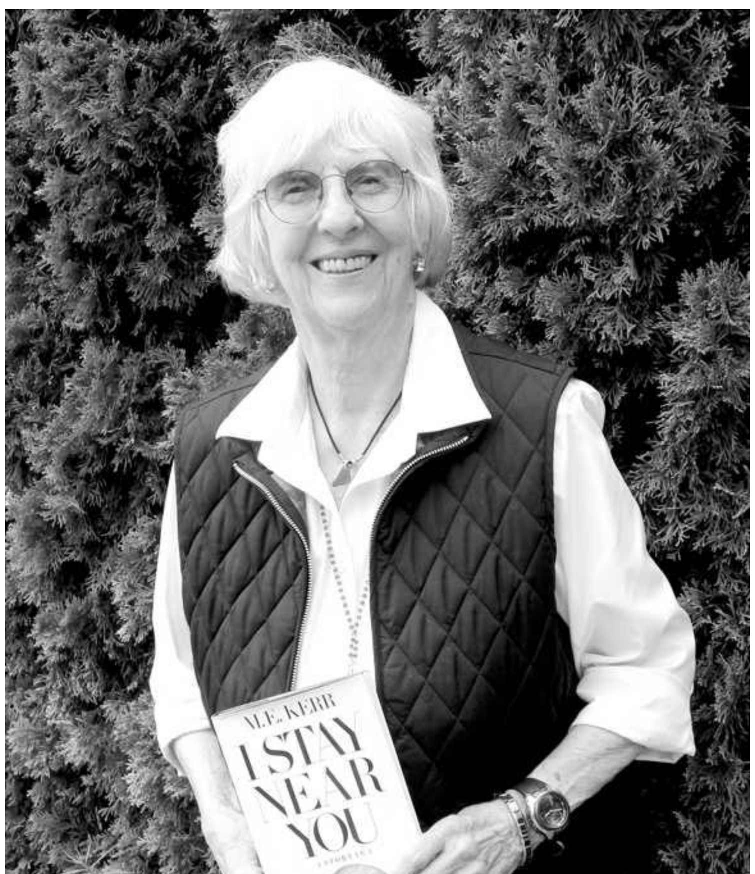
The cause was cardiac arrest, said Zoe Kamitses, a longtime friend.

A colorful raconteur who said she always loved pen names and disguises, Ms. Meaker wrote children's books as Mary James and young-adult novels as M.E. Kerr (the pseudonym mimicked the pronunciation of her surname), addressing issues including racism, sexism, mental illness, disability and homophobia.

Author and critic Anita Silvey once wrote that she was "one of the few young-adult writers who can take a subject that affects teenagers' lives, can say something important to young readers about it, and can craft what is first and foremost a good story, without preaching and without histrionics."

Ms. Meaker also wrote a few books under her own name, including the well-received memoir "Highsmith: A Romance of the Fifties" (2003), about her two-year relationship with Patricia Highsmith, the author of psychological thrillers including "Strangers on a Train" and "The Talented Mr. Ripley," as well as the lesbian novel "The Price of Salt." The two women met in 1959 at a lesbian bar in Greenwich Village — Ms. Meaker said that Highsmith "looked like a combination of Prince Valiant and Rudolf Nureyev" — and lived together for six months, much of it fractious, near New Hope in Pennsylvania.

Although Highsmith was the more critically acclaimed, Ms. Meaker was by then making far more money, as she told it, writing paperback thrillers, mysteries and romances, including sharply observed novels about lesbian life in America. At the time, gay men and lesbians were considered "abnormal" and "perverse," and many of her friends were still closeted. "There were no magazines or newspapers about us, no clubs for us to belong to," she recalled decades later, adding: "The churches and synagogues called us sinners, as they still do, and the law called us criminals. We had no legitimacy."



ZOE KAMITSES

Marijane Meaker at her home in East Hampton, N.Y. Her work spanned young-adult novels, mysteries and children's books.

But her breakout novel, "Spring Fire" (1952), a paperback original about lesbian romance at a college sorority, demonstrated the enormous appetite for books about lesbians, selling some 1.5 million copies and flabbergasting her publisher, the Fawcett imprint Gold Medal Books. "They had never seen such mail," she told the Chicago Tribune. "We suddenly realized that out there were a lot of women with these feelings who had absolutely no way to express them, deal with them, or cope."

Written under the pseudonym Vin Packer, "Spring Fire" had a sultry cover showing two women sitting on a bed in slips, and a title that Ms. Meaker's editor conceived to boost sales, intending to confuse readers thinking of James Michener's novel "Fires of Spring." It was not the first American paperback bestseller about lesbians — two years earlier, French writer Tereska Torrès found a large audience with her novel "Women's Barracks" — but it fueled the lesbian pulp genre, which continued with books by Ann Bannon, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Valerie Taylor and Ms. Meaker herself.

Over the next two decades, she published almost 20 mystery novels and thrillers under her Packer pseudonym, at times incorporating gay characters and storylines into novels about murders and kidnappings. Inspired by Edward Sagarin's "The Homosexual in America" (1951), she also wrote nonfiction books about lesbian life, including "We Walk Alone" (1955) and "We, Too, Must Love" (1958).

The books were published under the pen name Ann Aldrich, following her editor's suggestion that she use "a soft, all-American name, like that young man in the radio serial, Henry Aldrich." Although some lesbian reviewers criticized Ms. Meaker, accusing her of perpetuating negative stereotypes about gay men and lesbians, and focusing too much on the Greenwich Village party scene, the books also found a sizable following.

Ms. Meaker said that she received a flood of letters from women seeking to tell their own stories, to ask how they could meet lesbians in their own cities, or to request directions to bars in case they ever made it to New York. Usually the author was quick to respond, although she warned that lesbian bars often closed so quickly that her readers would have to discover new ones for themselves.

"She read everything written on queer life, from psychoanalysis to Sappho, and there was very little she did not have an opinion on, and very little that would keep her from giving that opinion," said literary scholar Stephanie Foote, who wrote the afterword to 2006 editions of the Aldrich books. "She was such a lightning rod in those days" but "was never apologetic about any of the choices she made in her work," Foote said in an email. "It is dated, sure, and sometimes problematic, but it is also vibrant and funny and shrewd, and it shows us a gay world in the '50s that is nothing like the shameful, repressed, furtive world we might imagine."

Mary Jane Meaker was born in Auburn, a city in the New York state region of the Finger Lakes, on May 27, 1927. Her birth certificate listed her given name as two words, although by the time she got a passport in the 1950s, it was spelled "Marijane," according to her friend Kamitses. At some point she began using the middle name Agnes, after an aunt.

Her father ran a company that manufactured mayonnaise (it made dehydrated onions for soldier rations during World War II), and her mother was a homemaker and neighborhood gossip who "would begin nearly every conversation the same way," Ms. Meaker recalled: "Wait till you hear this!" "Even today, when I am finished with a book and sifting through ideas for a new one," Ms. Meaker continued, "I ask myself: Is the idea a 'wait till you hear this'?"

Ms. Meaker told NPR that after realizing that she was a lesbian, she schemed to be sent away, having read that "boarding schools were filled with perversion." She was rewarded with an education at Stuart Hall, an Episcopal school in Staunton, Va., where she was briefly expelled for using faculty photos as a dartboard.

She later attended Vermont Junior College in Montpelier and studied English at the University of Missouri, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1949. After moving to New York, she submitted stories to women's magazines including Ladies Home Journal, writing under pen names and promoting her work by pretending to be a literary agent, meeting with publishers and editors to talk about her pseudonymous "clients."

She also worked as a secretary for Dick Carroll, who became her first editor at Gold Medal Books. Sitting down for drinks at the Algonquin Hotel one evening, he asked her, "What kind of story is a young girl like you burning to tell?" That led to the publication of "Spring Fire," albeit with a different ending than what she had originally envisioned.

Because the novel would be circulating through the mail, Carroll told her, it was open to government censorship, which meant that she could not be seen as proselytizing for homosexuality. Ms. Meaker was happy to oblige, so long as it meant getting the novel published. At the end of "Spring Fire," one of her female protagonists has a car accident and a nervous breakdown. The other visits a doctor and decides that she was straight all along.

With encouragement from her friend Louise Fitzhugh, the author of "Harriet the Spy," Ms. Meaker turned toward young-adult fiction in 1972, publishing the novel "Dinky Hocker Shoots Smack!" about an overweight teenager struggling to attract her mother's attention. Ms. Meaker "has an ear for catching the sound of real people talking," wrote New York Times reviewer Dale Carlson, "and a heart for finding the center of real people's problems."

Her later novels often featured ordinary characters in extraordinary situations, like a boy who discovers that his grandfather was a Nazi war criminal in "Gentlehands" (1978) and a 17-year-old who confronts his brother's AIDS diagnosis in "Night Kites" (1986), one of the first young-adult novels to address the AIDS epidemic.

Ms. Meaker's other books include "Shockproof Sydney Skate" (1972), a coming-of-age novel written under her own name, "Shoebag" (1990), which reversed the plot of Kafka's "Metamorphosis" to tell the story of a cockroach who transforms into a boy, and "Deliver Us From Evie" (1994), a lesbian romance set in rural Missouri.

In 1993, she received the American Library Association's Margaret Edwards Award for contributions to young-adult literature. "When I think of myself and what I would have like to have found in books those many years ago," she said at the time, "I remember being depressed by all the neatly tied-up, happy-ending stories, the abundance of winners, the themes of winning, solving, finding, when around me it didn't seem that easy. I write with a different feeling when I write for young adults. I guess I write for myself at that age."

Ms. Meaker leaves no immediate survivors. She had lived since the early 1970s on the East End of Long Island, where she started a writers organization, the Ashawagh Hall Writers Workshop, which she continued leading into her 80s. By then, members of the group, including crime novelist Vincent Lardo, had published more than 20 novels.

Many of her own books were drawn from memories of her own childhood and adolescence, as she acknowledged in a memoir, "Me Me Me Me Me: Not a Novel" (1983). "Whenever you find a little smart-mouth, tomboy kid in any of my books," she wrote, "you have found me from long ago."

OBITUARIES

ELEANOR JACKSON PIEL, 102

Lawyer fought wrongful convictions and death sentences

BY EMILY LANGER

Eleanor Jackson Piel, a lawyer who doggedly pursued civil rights and civil liberties cases, cleared the name of a man who had spent 17 years in prison for a rape he did not commit, and obtained a stay of execution for two death-row inmates 16 hours before they were to be electrocuted, later helping win their release, died Nov. 26 in Austin. She was 102.

She had a neurodegenerative disease, said her daughter, Eleanor Womack, in whose home Ms. Piel died.

Ms. Piel, one of exceedingly few women in her generation to enter criminal law, practiced into her 90s, attracting a national reputation as an unrelenting advocate for her clients. But as she set out on her career, she was told she held no promise at all.

When she applied to law school in 1940, she was turned away from the University of California at Berkeley because the acting dean was of the opinion that "females always had nervous breakdowns." She later gained admission as a transfer student — and as the only woman in her graduating class.

As a young lawyer, she discovered that law firms had little interest in hiring female counsel. She turned their rejections to her advantage, starting a private practice, based first in Los Angeles and then in New York, which allowed her to take cases on her own terms.

"I am persistent," she told the New York Times, "and I like to challenge authority. No question about it."

Female lawyers of Ms. Piel's era were generally limited to the handling of divorces, trusts and estates, and other matters of family law. As a woman practicing in the criminal field, Ms. Piel had "no role models," Linda Greenhouse, a lecturer at Yale Law School and a longtime U.S. Supreme Court reporter for the Times, said in an interview. "She really kind of invented herself by going into that line of work."

"Criminal law was such a low level in the profession that anyone who gave it time was a sport," Ms. Piel told the Times. "I couldn't understand why it was so disrespected. To me, facing the unknown and coming up with something on my feet that worked was heaven."

At times, Ms. Piel was refused access to male clients in jail because she was a woman. Once, after she delivered a closing argument, a federal judge admonished the jury not to be swayed by her beauty.

Sometimes the indignities accumulated to such a degree that even Ms. Piel — once described by the Times as "the courts' most elegant pain in the neck" — lost her equanimity. On one occasion, a man introduced her at a party as "the best woman lawyer in Los Angeles." Offended by what she considered the gratuitous reference to her gender, she punched him.

Although perhaps best known for her criminal practice, Ms. Piel took a wide range of cases over her decades in law. Early in her career, she worked on behalf of Japanese Americans interned by the U.S. government during World War II.

In a civil suit in the 1960s, she represented a White teacher, Sandra Adickes, who had been arrested for vagrancy after trying to dine with six Black students at a segregated Kress lunch counter in Mississippi in 1964. In one of four cases that Ms. Piel argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, she won a judgment in her client's favor and ultimately settled out of court.

Later that decade, Ms. Piel represented Alice de Rivera, a high-achieving 13-year-old student who filed a suit to be granted admission to Stuyvesant High School in New York, a prestigious public school then restricted to boys. Girls were admitted in 1969, although by that time Rivera had moved.

Ms. Piel achieved one of her most noted successes in 1988, when she helped secure the release of two half-brothers, William Riley Jent and Earnest Lee Miller, convicted in the 1979 murder of a Florida woman who had been strangled and set on fire. Her body, disfigured beyond recognition, was discovered in a game preserve 60 miles from Tampa.

Because the victim was not yet identified, police and prosecutors were left "to solve the case by conjuring their own murder story out of thin air," Ms. Piel later reflected in an essay about the case. They made what she described as an "arbitrary choice of defendants," plucking Jent, a 28-year-old biker, and Miller, 23, a high school dropout who had gone AWOL from the Marine Corps, as two "available and disposable young men" to charge with the crime.

Known as the Death Row Brothers, the defendants were convicted in separate trials and received death sentences. On their appeal, Ms. Piel represented Jent. A colleague, Howardene Garrett, represented Miller. Their work helped reveal the case to be what a 1985 investigation in The Washington Post described as "the most dubious death row conviction in Florida" at the time.

Among other problems, the victim was not conclusively identified until 1985, more than five years after the defendants were condemned. The family of the woman, Linda Gale Bradshaw, believed her to have been killed by a boyfriend, not by the convicted defendants. Critical witnesses offered shifting accounts, and investigators declined to pursue basic leads.

In 1983, Ms. Piel persuaded a judge to issue a stay of their execution 16 hours before the defendants were set to die in the electric chair. In 1988, they were freed after agreeing to a deal in which they entered guilty pleas for second-degree murder — although they maintained their innocence — and were sentenced to time already served with time off for good behavior.

"I'm happy for Bill and Ernie today because they are alive," Ms. Piel said at the time, "but the taste is bitter because the price was a lie."

The case of the Death Row Brothers "vividly illustrates one of the principal hazards to the administration of justice that arise from the acceptance of the death penalty in our law and custom," Ms. Piel wrote. "That is the extreme behavior, in violation of their public trust, to which prosecutors and police are drawn by ambition and by the [attention] they can win by securing a death penalty."

Eleanor Virden Jackson was born in Santa Monica, Calif., on Sept. 22, 1920. Her father, a physician, was a Lithuanian Jew who had changed the family name from Koussevitzky to Jackson when he immigrated to the United States. (The conductor Serge Koussevitzky was a relative.)

Ms. Piel's mother, a concert pianist, was Protestant and discouraged Ms. Piel from acknowledging her Jewish ancestry. Ms. Piel was deeply affected by the experience of her father amid the prevailing antisemitism of the time, including his expulsion from a Santa Monica beach club when other members discovered he was a Jew.

"I was upset about the fact that people didn't like Jews, when I was half Jewish, and then I had my mother being antisemitic," Ms. Piel told a publication of Berkeley's law school. "It just didn't seem fair."

Ms. Piel studied at the University of California at Los Angeles before graduating from UC-Berkeley in 1940. Turned away from Berkeley's law school, she attended the University of Southern California, where she made law review before returning to Berkeley. She graduated in 1943.

After law school, Ms. Piel clerked for Judge Louis E. Goodman of the federal district court in San Francisco. He hired her for the job traditionally filled by recent graduates, she said, because "he thought if he had a woman she would stay there forever."

The assignment proved immensely fulfilling, however, when Goodman was assigned to preside over *United States v. Masaaki Kuwabara*, a case involving 27 individuals who, like thousands of Japanese people and Japanese Americans, had been incarcerated in internment camps during World War II. The individuals in the case had been arraigned after not reporting for the draft.

Working with Goodman, Ms. Piel found grounds to support a decision against the government. The 1940 Selective Training and Service Act declared that "in a free society the obligations and privileges of military training and service should be shared generally in accordance with a fair and just system of selective compulsory military training and service." Detained as they had been, the internees, Goodman found, had scarcely been enjoying the benefits of a "free society."

Ms. Piel later worked in Tokyo on the war crimes trials of Japanese officials as well as on the reconstruction of the Japanese economy. In 1948, she opened her law practice.

Ms. Piel was married in 1955 to Gerard Piel, the publisher of Scientific American magazine and a member of the family that made Piels beer. He died in 2004.

Besides her daughter, survivors include a stepson, Jonathan Piel of New York City; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Another stepson, Samuel Piel, died in 1965.

Ms. Piel was 78 years old when she secured one of her most rewarding judgments. It came in the case of Warith Habib Abdal, previously known as Vincent H. Jenkins, who had been convicted in 1983 of a rape in Buffalo. Ms. Piel had represented him in a manslaughter case the previous decade and worked on his appeal in the rape case with Barry Scheck, a co-founder of the Innocence Project, a nonprofit founded to guard against wrongful convictions.

On Ms. Piel's insistence, DNA evidence was analyzed and reanalyzed — and ultimately showed that the defendant's DNA did not match the assailant's. He was released in 1999, 17 years after he had gone to prison on the charge.

"It's hard to tell how I feel," he told the Times when he was released, "because your heart is like your toe. It grows skin on it and it gets hard."

"But," he continued, "people like Mrs. Piel soften it up."



OZIER MUHAMMAD/NEW YORK TIMES

Eleanor Jackson Piel at her law office in New York in 1961. One of the few women in her generation to enter criminal law, Ms. Piel was initially told she had no promise at all. However, she soon garnered a national reputation as an unrelenting advocate for her clients.

FREDDIE ROMAN, 85

Comedian was a stand-up staple among Borscht Belt circuit's bigger names

BY MICHAEL S. ROSENWALD

Freddie Roman, a stand-up comedian who became a staple of the Borscht Belt, the Catskill Mountains region where vacationing Jews enjoyed heaping portions of chopped liver, nature (but not too much) and a barrage of one-liners, died Nov. 26 at a hospital in Boynton Beach, Fla. He was 85.

The cause was a heart attack, his booking agent Alison Chaplin said.

Mr. Roman, who joked that his cholesterol test came back as "9-1-1" and that the state fowl of Florida was the "Early Bird," was among the dozens of Jewish comedians who honed their craft at resorts in rural New York and Pennsylvania that catered to a mostly Jewish clientele.

Some of the comedians who performed there — Milton Berle, Lenny Bruce, Don Rickles, Mel Brooks, Jackie Mason and, later, Jerry Seinfeld — went on to huge careers in television, movies and cable TV specials.

Mr. Roman was not one of them.

Though he appeared six times on NBC's "Tonight Show" and opened once for singer Frank Sinatra, Mr. Roman spent most of his career telling jokes on smoky stages in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. He also served as the longtime dean of the Friars Club, a New York comedy institution.

"No doubt about it, he could definitely make a crowd laugh," said Robert Klein, the New York comedian and fellow Friars Club member who appeared on the TV show "Will & Grace." "He was not groundbreaking, but he was funny and he was true to his craft."

Mr. Roman's jokes were quintessential Borscht Belt, poking fun at stereotypical Jewish culture — bickering spouses, overindulgence in food, hypochondria, and a lot of complaining. "My humor," he once said, "is basically exaggeration of real life."

One of Mr. Roman's favorite bits was about his parents retiring to — of course — Florida.

Two weeks after they moved, Mr. Roman calls his father to ask how it was going.

"I love it," his father says. "Why didn't you tell me to do it before?"

Then Mr. Roman calls back again two weeks later.

"Get me the hell out of here," his dad says. "I'm married to your mother 48 years. I'm retired four weeks. In these four weeks, I talked more to that woman than I did in 48 years. I have nothing left to say to her."

Many of the Jewish comedians who performed in the Catskills changed their names so they could get gigs outside the Borscht Belt. Leonard Schneider became Lenny Bruce. Mendel Berlinger became Milton Berle. And Fred Martin Kirschenbaum became Freddie Roman.

He was born May 28, 1937, in Newark and raised in Queens, where his father sold shoes and his mother was a homemaker. Mr. Roman's family owned the Crystal Spring Hotel in the Catskills. When he was 15, Mr. Roman pestered his uncle to let him skip some busboy shifts and emcee for the nightly entertainers.

"He could save maybe $40 a week!" Mr. Roman told The Washington Post in 1991. "And the guests would think, 'Isn't that cute? He's 15; he's adorable! Look how he talks so nice.'"

Mr. Roman continued his emcee gigs, including during his summer breaks from New York University, where he met his future wife, Ethel Harris. After graduation, Mr. Roman opened a shoe store in Queens and started a family in New City, a hamlet in New York's Rockland County, where he and Ethel raised two children.

On weekends, Mr. Roman performed stand-up in the Borscht Belt, eventually selling the shoe store to focus on comedy full time. One of his early gigs was at Arele's, a Queens joint that called itself the world's only kosher nightclub.

He also worked the Hawaiian Cottage in Cherry Hill, N.J. Torches burned in the parking lot.

"I remember the owner," Mr. Roman told the Philadelphia Daily News. ". . . Used to walk around the club in a suit with a parrot on his shoulder. As you were sitting there eating the baked ziti, you could watch him walking around with the parrot. I guess the parrot made it tropical."

When he started doing regular gigs in the Catskills, Mr. Roman performed at three or four resorts a night. The crowds could be tough.

"The one thing about the Jewish audiences in the mountains, you had to be good," Mr. Roman said in an interview before a 2014 show. "If you weren't good, they let you know. They didn't boo. They were very respectful. They just got up and walked out. And if you were no good, at the end of the night you were working to 200 chairs."

Mr. Roman got his big break in the early 1970s, when he landed a Las Vegas gig at the Desert Inn. He wound up spending 18 years in Vegas, performing 12 weeks a year at Caesars Palace and the Riviera Hotel.

Between gigs in Las Vegas and then Atlantic City, Mr. Roman continued performing in the Catskills. But by the 1980s, the Borscht Belt resorts had all but vanished following the rise of air travel and other all-inclusive resorts around the country modeled on the Catskills, including in Las Vegas.

But the echoes of the Borscht Belt lived on. In 1991, Mr. Roman conceived and was featured in the revue "Catskills on Broadway." Mr. Roman, Mal Z. Lawrence, Dick Capri and Marilyn Michaels revived their old Catskill routines. The show lasted a year and a half before touring the country.

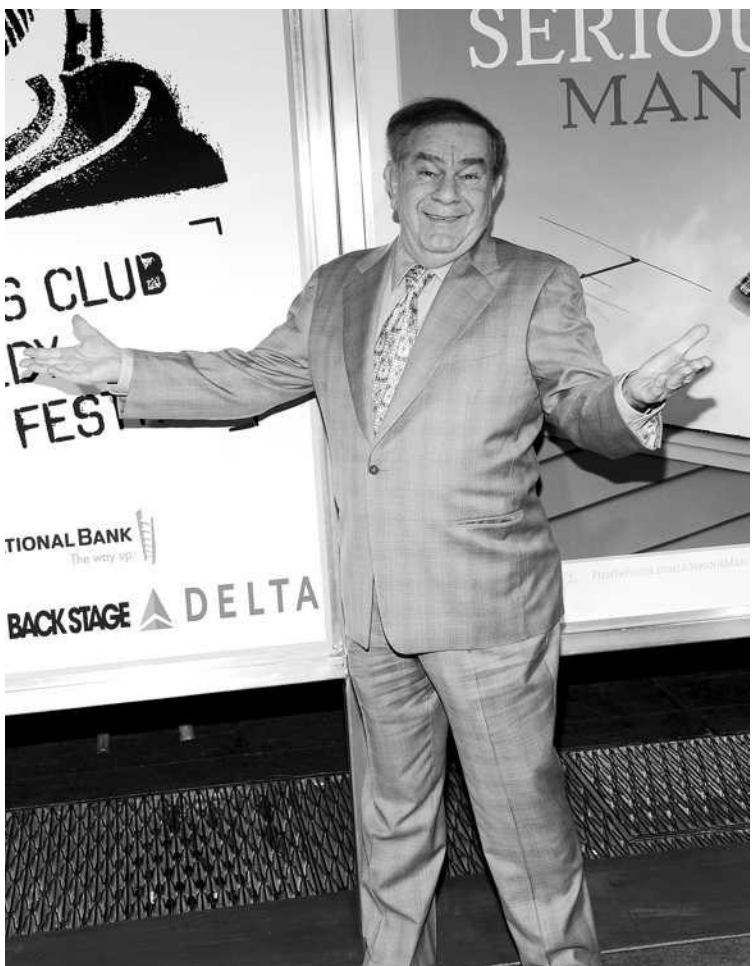
"The title of the show 'Catskills on Broadway' deserves a truth-in-advertising award," New York Times theater critic Mel Gussow wrote. "With these four stand-up comics at the Lunt-Fontanne Theater, you pay your money and you get the jokes, unless you happen to miss the punch lines because of the laughter."

For decades, Mr. Roman longed for a staring role in TV or film, but he had to settle for smaller parts in NBC's "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," the film "Finding North" (1998) and the Amazon streaming show "Red Oaks."

In addition to his wife of 63 years, Mr. Roman is survived by a daughter, Judi Kirschenbaum Levin; and four grandchildren. His son, TV producer Alan Kirschenbaum, died in 2012.

Mr. Roman was also known for his roasts at the Friars Club, where in 1999 the roast table was turned on him.

"When I was born, Freddie Roman was getting his first hair weave," the comedian Steven Scott said. "Judging by the average age of our dais tonight, it should be on the History Channel."



STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES

Freddie Roman in 2009. His family owned a Catskills hotel. At 15 he would skip busboy shifts to emcee for the nightly entertainers.



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IN MEMORIAM

STOLL

DAN I. STOLL
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on the 56th Anniversay of your birth.
Always in our hearts.
Your Family
12/16/1966 - 7/6/2020

DEATH NOTICE

ALEXANDER

CARLTON WAYNE ALEXANDER
Entered into eternal rest on Friday, December 9, 2022. He is survived by his sister, Cheryl Alexander-Melton; two brothers, Marshall Alexander and Darrell Alexander; nephew, Marcus Alexander-Smith and a host of other relatives and friends. Funeral and burial services are private.

BENNETT



RHONDA LANAE BENNETT (Age 45)
Transitioned on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. Family will receive friends on December 19, 2022 at Spirit of Faith Christian Center, 14107 Gibbons Church Rd., Brandywine, MD. Visitation 10 a.m; Celebration of life 11 a.m. Interment Lincoln Cemetery. Acknowledgements may be sent to 4110 Arthur Ross Pl., Indian Head, MD 20640.

FOUNTAIN



SHIRLEY W. FOUNTAIN
Shirley W. Fountain transitioned on Saturday December 3, 2022. Survived by husband Franklin M. Fountain, and children Sonia, Le Anna, and Wayne Fountain. Family will receive friends on Monday, December 19, at 12:30 p.m. until the time of service at 1:30 p.m. at Fort Lincoln Funeral Home, 3401 Bladensburg Rd, Brentwood, MD 20722. Interment Fort Lincoln Cemetery.

GARNETT



STANLEY ANTHONY GARNETT
On Monday, December 5, 2022. Survived by his devoted wife, Phyllis Pines Garnett and a host of relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Anthony and Cynthia Garnett; brothers, Alvin and Maurice Garnett; sisters, Cynthia Garnett and Geraldine Ross; and daughter, Denise Olden. Viewing at 10 a.m. Funeral services at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at the Mount Airy Baptist Church, 1100 North Capitol Street NW, Washington, DC 20002. Pastor L. B. West, officiating.

LOWE

RONNIE LOWE
Of North Bethesda, MD passed away from this life on Sunday, December 11, 2022 at Johns Hopkins Bay View Medical Center. He celebrated his 80th birthday on July 17th.

Ronnie grew up in Edgewater, MD., the son of Earl and Rosemary Harvey Lowe and resided with his maternal grandparents, George William, Sr. and Rose Selby Harvey. After attending St. John's Military Academy Ronnie joined the Air Force and spent four years primarily as a B52 flight engineer. Ronnie's career was with Safeway Inc., retiring in 1996 after a 35 year career, starting as a stocker and moving up the ranks to store manager.

He went on to marry Nancy Louise Huey and was blessed with three children, Deidre, Jonathan and Christian being further blessed with 7 grandchildren, Joseph, Joshua, Max, Taylor, Harper, James and Darra.

Ronnie was a kind soul that will be missed by family and friends and will not be forgotten for he lives on in our memories.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Holy Redeemer Church, 9705 Summit Ave, Kensington, MD, on Saturday, December 17, at 12 noon. Interment Private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Johns Hopkins Bay View Medical Center.
www.COLLINSFUNERALHOME.com

MITZNER-WOHL



EVELYN MITZNER-WOHL
On December 12, 2022, Evelyn Mitzner-Wohl, of Rochester NY. She was the beloved wife of the late Ernest Mitzner and second husband, the late Frederic Wohl; devoted mother of Jay, Barry, and Sandy Mitzner; beloved sister of Arnold Danoff and the late Marion Ciperson; Cherished grandmother of Mikael and Zachariah Page. Elena (Page) Keider, Riki (Mitzner) Josef, Cari (Mitzner) Akman, Jenna (Mitzner) Rabhan, and Oren Mitzner. There will be a graveside service on December 16, 2022 at 11 AM at B'Nai Israel Cemetery (5401 St Barnabas Rd, Oxon Hill, MD 20745). Contributions may be made to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC. Arrangements by Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home under Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington Contract.
www.hinesrinaldifuneralhome.com

DEATH NOTICE

SADLER



GEORGIA CLARK SADLER
CAPT, USN (RET.)
Georgia passed peacefully on November 30, 2022 of complications from Alzheimer's disease. She was a tireless advocate for women in the military. Among many accomplishments, she was the first female instructor at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, as well as the first female intelligence briefer to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And extremely strong, yet deeply kind woman, her diplomatic demeanor opened the doors for women in the military for decades to come. She will be sorely missed by her husband of 47 years, retired US Naval Reserve Captain Dudley Sadler, her devoted niece Lori Gibson, and countless others whose lives she touched. Services to be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. For full tribute please visit https://ww.everlywheatly.com.

WADE

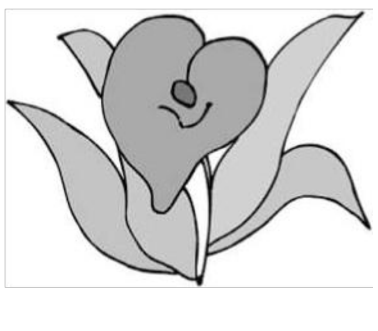


RUSSELL LEONARD WADE
December 23, 1931–December 6, 2022
Leonard Irving Wade (aka Russell Leonard Wade, aka POPs), 90, of Washington, DC passed away peacefully in the early afternoon (12:41 p.m.) on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. Previously married to Elois Hamlin for 42 years and to this union two children were born: Lenora and Harold.
Russell is survived by his lone son, Harold and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother (2008), his step-father (1968), his former wife (2014), his sister (2017) and his daughter (2022). Visitation will be held on Friday, December 16, 2022, beginning at 10 a.m. at Snowden Funeral Home, 246 North Washington Street, Rockville, MD 20850. Funeral services to begin immediately afterwards.

DEATH NOTICE

WILLIAMS

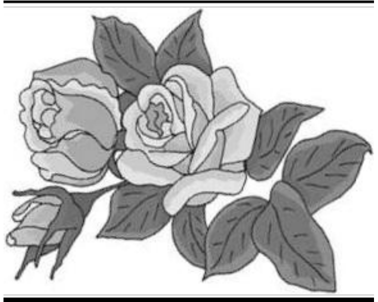
EDNA REBECCA WILLIAMS
Edna Rebecca Williams, of Oxon Hill, MD on November 25, 2022. Visitation will be held 9:30 a.m. on Monday, December 19, 2022, Fort Lincoln Funeral Home, 3401 Bladensburg Rd., Brentwood, MD 20722, with funeral service to follow at 10:30 a.m. Interment Fort Lincoln Cemetery.



WOODWARD



BRIAN WELCH WOODWARD
(Age 49)
Brian Welch Woodward, of Kensington, MD, passed away on November 17, 2022. Beloved husband of Ellen Wasilausky Woodward; loving father of Mary "Molly" Colleen, Sean David, and Robert Simon Woodward; loving son of Kathleen Woodward and the late David Woodward of McLean, VA; brother of James Woodward (Andrea) and uncle to Lily, Evan, and Eliza of Arlington, VA. Brian enjoyed a more than 20-year career at the Department of Commerce, where he specialized in international trade policy.
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Brian's name to Christ Episcopal Church Kensington or Homeward Trails Animal Rescue. A visitation will be held at Pumphrey's Bethesda-Chevy Chase Funeral Home on Friday, December 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. Full obituary can be viewed and online condolence may be expressed at:
www.PumphreyFuneralHome.com



DEATH NOTICE

BEALL



JOAN H. BEALL (Age 89)
On Tuesday, December 13, 2022, of Silver Spring, MD. Beloved wife of the late Robert S. Beall, Jr.; mother of Robert S. (Ana Maria) Beall, III, Sharon A. (Robert C. Ziobro) Beall, Susan B. (Scott) Martin, Laura B. Reese, and Ginny A. Desautels; grandmother of Christopher M. Ziobro, Christopher B., Robert P., Mary V. Reese, and Ana Maria F. Beall; great-grandmother of Quinn and Logan. After graduating from Sacred Heart Academy High School and getting married in 1952 she worked for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and later the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). She left several years later to raise her five children. She was active in St. Camillus Church for 64 years with the Ladies Auxiliary, Teen Club, CYO, Parish Council and more. When her children were grown she return to the workforce with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission working there until retirement. Following retirement she worked for St. Bernard's Rectory for many years. She was deeply devoted to her Catholic Faith, her family and friends. Relatives and friends may call at St. Camillus Church, 1600 St. Camillus Drive, Silver Spring, MD, Monday, December 19, 2022, from 3 to 6 p.m. where Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 10 a.m. Interment Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the John S. Mulholland Family Foundation, Inc. who serve the hungry and poor of Washington, DC.
www.COLLINSFUNERALHOME.com

KARBELING



VALERIE KARBELING (Age 61)
Valerie Karbeling, of Gaithersburg, MD (originally from Sandusky, OH), passed away peacefully on December 13, 2022 after a courageous 10-year battle with kidney cancer.

Beloved by so many, Valerie cherished relationships with her entire family and cared deeply about everyone. She maintained strong friendships from all eras of her life - childhood, college at Michigan State, co-workers turned family throughout her career, friends made at her synagogue, Temple Emanuel, and more. Valerie built incredible bonds with her kids' friends and their families, students at GHS where she worked as a secretary, the animals she had as pets, and even the ones roaming the neighborhood that she would leave food out for. She was passionate about bringing and keeping everyone together.

Valerie is survived by her husband Kenneth Karbeling, her children Eric, Leslie, and Adam Karbeling, her mother Madeline Lichtcsien, her father Nathan Lichtcsien, her brother Bruce Lichtcsien, and cats Oliver and Gi-Gi.

A funeral service will be held in her honor at 10 a.m. on Friday December 16, 2022 at Temple Emanuel (10101 Connecticut Ave, Kensington, MD 20895). Family will be observing shiva at their residence at 7 p.m. every evening from Saturday December 17, through Wednesday, December 21.



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The Washington Post

IN MEMORIAM

BRADY



MARY D. BRADY
May 12, 1921 – December 16, 2011
In loving memory of Mary D. Brady
Devoted wife, mother, and grandmother
And avid Redskins fan.
You are always in our hearts.

Love from your daughter, Cathy and your grandchildren, Mary and Jim.

DEATH NOTICE

ALLMAN



MARY ANN ALLMAN
Mary Ann Allman, age 82 longtime resident of Olney, MD, passed away peacefully December 1, 2022, at home surrounded by her loving family.
She is the daughter of the late Dr. Francis C. Allman and Mary C. Wahler Allman. She also is predeceased by brother Michael Allman (Ann) and dear friend Liz Marshall. Survivors include siblings Kathleen Hutchinson (Hutch), Theresa Cuddy (Jack), Timothy Allman (Kim), Catherine Pownell (Rex, deceased), Cecelia Allman, and many nieces and nephews.
Mary devoted her life to the service of others and will be remembered by all for the love, compassion, grace, and joy she generously shared. A Memorial Mass will be offered Saturday, December 17 at St. Paul's Catholic Church, 9250 E. Damascus Road, Damascus, MD. Visitation: 10 a.m. and Mass 10:30 a.m. Masks Requested.
In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the charity of your choice in Mary's name.

TAYLOR



ARTHUR TAYLOR JR. (Age 95)
Arthur Taylor, Jr of Silver Spring, Maryland, our beloved Husband, Father, Brother, Grandfather and Great-grandfather, also cherished by many friends—passed away peacefully at Brooke Grove Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, Sandy Spring, Maryland, on the eve of Friday, December 9, 2022, following complications from an accidental fall at his home. He is survived by his beloved wife of 75 years, Bernice M. Taylor, son Tyrone C. Taylor, daughter Charlotte (Taylor) Phillips and sister, Geneva Matthews.
Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 with Viewing at 10 a.m. and Funeral at 11 a.m. at the Interfaith Chapel at Leisure World, 3680 South Leisure World Boulevard, Silver Spring, MD. (Please Note: Flowers will be received at the Chapel). Interment immediately following at Parklawn Memorial Park, 12800 Veirs Mill Road, Rockville, MD.
www.goinghomecares.com

WILLIAMS



JEREMIAH WILLIAMS
With profound sadness and deepest regrets, the family of Mr. Jeremiah Ordorla Claudius Williams announces his passing on December 1, 2022, in Rockville, Maryland, USA. Jeremiah was born on October 30, 1948, in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and is preceded in death by his parents, Jeremiah Ordorla Williams and Rosamund Aina Williams (née Harris); sister, Jeredine Sarakule Williams; brother, Abayomi Williams; aunt, Cecilia Owoye Fyne (née Harris); and uncle, Eugene Ayo Harris. He is survived by his wife, Mimie Rose Williams (née Johnson); daughter, Makeda Williams Morais (John); son, Jaegan Williams; granddaughter, Michaela Morais; sister, Essie Stevens Harding (Olu); nephews, Olu Stevens (Raymonda), Ayo Stevens (Jennifer), Tim Jarrett-Thorpe (Tanya), and Godwin Korpah (Correatha); nieces Agnes Smith, and Pamela Oredola Davies; immediate relatives of the Williams, Harris, Jalloh-Jamboria, and Thomas Families; and a host of other relatives and friends. Services will be held December 17, 2022. For information on funeral arrangements, please visit the following webpage: https://www.snowdencares.com/obituary/Jeremiah-Williams

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DEATH NOTICES
MONDAY- FRIDAY 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
SATURDAY-SUNDAY 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To place a notice, call:
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202-334-7188
EMAIL:
deathnotices@washpost.com

Email and faxes MUST include name, home address & home phone # of the responsible billing party.
Fax & email deadline - 3 p.m. daily
Phone-In deadline
4 p.m. M-F
3 p.m. Sa-Su

CURRENT 2022 RATES:
(PER DAY)

MONDAY-SATURDAY
Black & White
1" - $150 (text only)
2" - $340 (text only)
3" - $490
4" - $535
5" - $678

SUNDAY
Black & White
1"- $179 (text only)
2" - $376(text only)
3" - $543
4" - $572
5" - $738

6"+ for ALL Black & White notices
$150 each additional inch wkday
$179 each additional inch Sunday

MONDAY-SATURDAY
Color
3" - $628
4" - $676
5" - $826

SUNDAY
Color
3" - $665
4" - $760
5" - $926

6"+ for ALL color notices
$249 each additional inch wkday
$277 each additional inch Sunday

Notices with photos begin at 3"
(All photos add 2" to your notice.)

ALL NOTICES MUST BE PREPAID

MEMORIAL PLAQUES:
All notices over 2" include complimentary memorial plaque

Additional plaques start at $26 each and may be ordered.

All Paid Death Notices appear on our website through www.legacy.com

LEGACY.COM
Included in all death notices
Optional for In Memoriams

PLEASE NOTE:

Notices must be placed via phone, fax or email. Photos must be emailed. You can no longer place notices, drop off photos and make payment in person. Payment must be made via phone with debit/credit card.

The Washington Post

PAID DEATH NOTICES

HOLIDAY HOURS

Saturday, December 24, 2022
11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Sunday, December 25, 2022
11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Monday, December 26, 2022
11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

&

Saturday, December 31, 2022
11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2023
11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Monday, January 2, 2023
11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

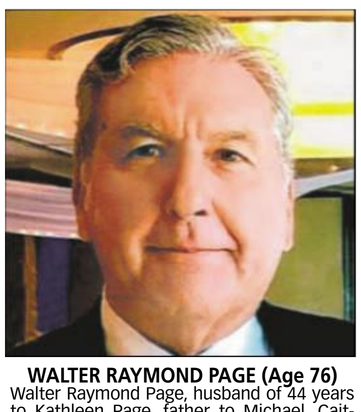
Photo Deadline: 1 p.m.

NO EXCEPTIONS

To place a notice, call:
202-334-4122
800-627-1150
Ext. 4-4122
deathnotices@washpost.com

DEATH NOTICE

PAGE



WALTER RAYMOND PAGE (Age 76)
Walter Raymond Page, husband of 44 years to Kathleen Page, father to Michael, Caitlin, and Brendan Page, and sibling to eight brothers and two sisters, passed away holding the hands of loved ones on the evening of Monday, December 12, 2022.

His seventy-six years of life are marked by myriad quiet acts of generosity and an unforgettable love for his family.

Raymond is the President of Bill Page Toyota in Falls Church, Virginia. He has worked there for 53 years, since May 1969.

A wake will be held on Sunday, December 18, from 2 to 5:30 p.m. at Murphy's Funeral Home, 1102 W. Broad Street, Falls Church, VA. A Memorial Mass will be offered Monday, December 19 at 11 a.m. at St. Luke's Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Arc of Northern Virginia or the Daughters of Charity.
https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/11059396

MURPHY FUNERAL HOMES
ARLINGTON | FALLS CHURCH

THE WEATHER

WASHINGTONPOST.COM/WEATHER · TWITTER: @CAPITALWEATHER · FACEBOOK.COM/CAPITALWEATHER

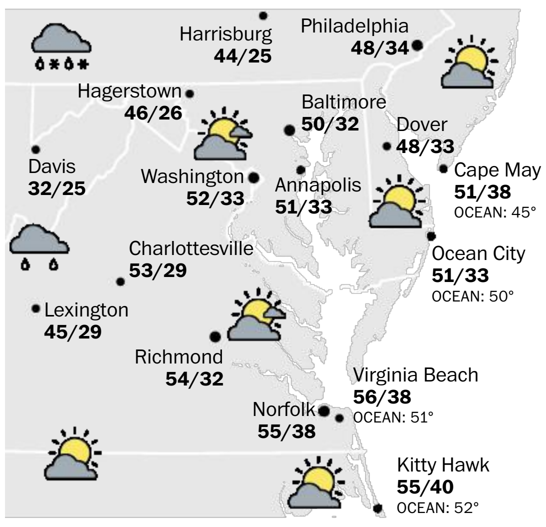
Sun returns, but wind casts a chill



After a wet Thursday, sunshine is back and accompanied by gusty winds. Highs in the mid- and upper 40s will feel about 10 degrees colder much of the day thanks to northwest winds around 10 to 15 mph.

Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly cloudy
52° 33°	47° 32°	42° 29°	43° 29°	46° 32°	45° 31°
FEELS*: **46°**	FEELS: **41°**	FEELS: **35°**	FEELS: **37°**	FEELS: **47°**	FEELS: **49°**
CHNCE PRECIP: **10%**	P: **5%**	P: **10%**	P: **0%**	P: **15%**	P: **15%**
WIND: **WNW 8–16 mph**	W: **W 7–14 mph**	W: **W 8–16 mph**	W: **WNW 8–16 mph**	W: **SSW 4–8 mph**	W: **NNE 3–6 mph**
HUMIDITY: **Moderate**	H: **Low**	H: **Low**	H: **Low**	H: **Moderate**	H: **Low**

REGION



Pollen: Low
Grass Low
Trees Low
Weeds Low
Mold Low

Air Quality: Good
Dominant cause: Particulates

UV: Low
1 out of 11+

Blue Ridge: Today, partly sunny. High 33 to 37. Winds west 15–25 mph. Tonight, patchy clouds. Low 20 to 24. Winds west 10–20 mph. Saturday, mostly cloudy; a snow shower, but dry in central parts. High 28 to 32. Winds west 15–25 mph. Sunday, very cold.

Atlantic beaches: Today, mostly cloudy; a morning shower, then becoming windy in the north. High 51 to 55. Winds west 7–14 mph. Tonight, mainly clear. Low 33 to 38. Winds west 10–20 mph.

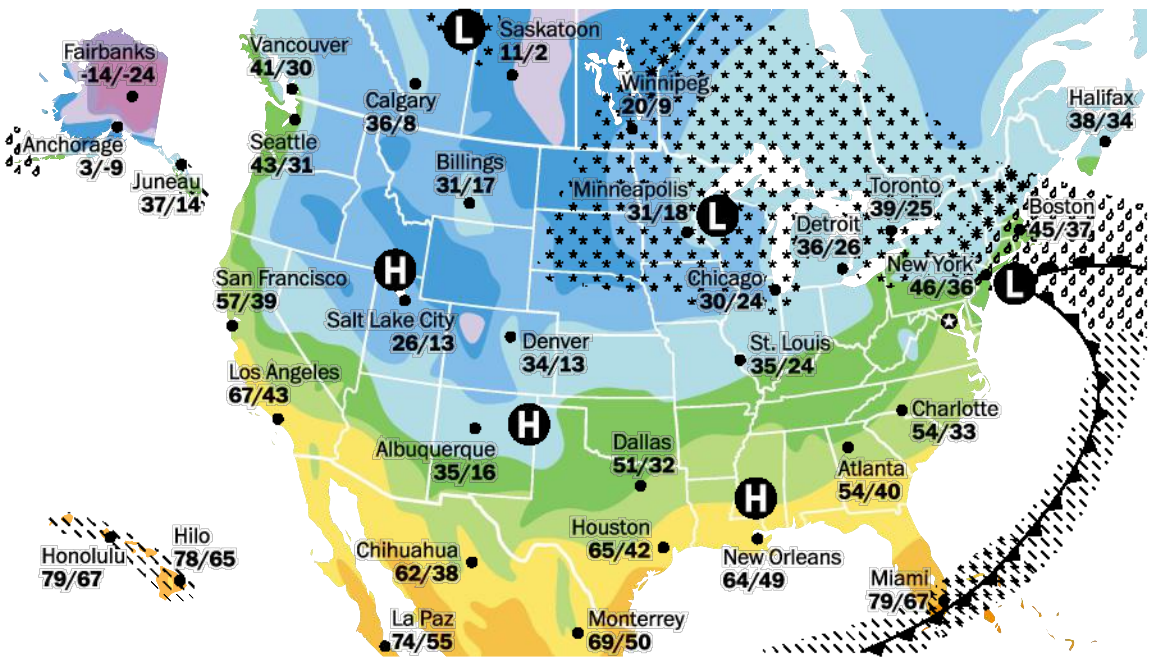
Waterways: *Upper Potomac River*: Today, sun, some clouds. Wind west-northwest 7–14 knots. Waves 1–3 feet. Visibility clear. • *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay*: Today, partly sunny. Wind west 10–20 knots. Waves 1–3 feet on the Lower Potomac and the Chesapeake Bay.• *River Stages*: The stage at Little Falls will be around 3.10 feet today, rising to 4.00 Saturday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

Today's tides (High tides in **Bold**)

Washington	**1:03 a.m.**	7:54 a.m.	**1:37 p.m.**	8:18 p.m.
Annapolis	5:01 a.m.	**10:58 a.m.**	5:01 p.m.	**11:03 p.m.**
Ocean City	**12:49 a.m.**	6:55 a.m.	**1:09 p.m.**	7:33 p.m.
Norfolk	**2:43 a.m.**	8:51 a.m.	**2:49 p.m.**	9:17 p.m.
Point Lookout	1:09 a.m.	**7:03 a.m.**	12:53 p.m.	**7:03 p.m.**

NATION

Weather map features for noon today.



Yesterday's National
High: Immokalee, FL **86°**
Low: Farson, WY **–18°**
for the 48 contiguous states

World
High: Marble Bar, Australia **108°**
Low: Delyakir, Russia **–71°**
excludes Antarctica

NATIONAL	Today	Tomorrow
Albany, NY	36/32/sn	36/18/sf
Albuquerque	35/16/s	38/20/s
Anchorage	3/–9/s	0/–5/s
Atlanta	54/40/s	50/31/c
Austin	55/41/pc	59/33/pc
Baltimore	50/32/pc	46/27/s
Billings, MT	31/17/c	27/2/pc
Birmingham	53/38/s	49/28/c
Bismarck, ND	17/–4/sn	8/–8/pc
Boise	23/10/c	22/11/pc
Boston	45/37/r	42/31/c
Buffalo	38/28/sf	32/25/sf
Burlington, VT	36/33/sn	35/26/sf
Charleston, SC	62/40/s	62/38/s
Charleston, WV	45/30/c	39/25/c
Charlotte	54/33/pc	51/29/pc
Cheyenne, WY	22/14/pc	34/19/pc
Chicago	30/24/sn	28/18/sf
Cincinnati	40/25/c	34/23/c
Cleveland	38/27/sf	32/25/sf
Dallas	51/32/s	53/32/pc
Denver	34/13/c	41/16/pc
Des Moines	25/16/sf	23/10/c
Detroit	36/26/sf	31/26/sf
El Paso	50/26/pc	50/27/s
Fairbanks, AK	–14/–24/s	–22/–28/s
Fargo, ND	24/10/sn	13/–6/sf
Hartford, CT	40/35/sn	43/21/sf
Honolulu	79/67/sh	81/66/pc
Houston	65/42/pc	55/35/c
Indianapolis	35/23/c	31/19/c
Jackson, MS	60/43/s	53/30/pc
Jacksonville, FL	66/38/s	63/43/pc
Kansas City, MO	33/18/pc	34/16/pc
Las Vegas	50/30/s	49/32/pc
Little Rock	51/29/s	48/26/s
Los Angeles	67/43/pc	64/42/pc
Louisville	44/28/pc	38/24/pc
Memphis	50/32/s	44/28/s
Miami	79/67/t	80/68/sh
Milwaukee	32/26/sf	30/19/sf
Minneapolis	31/18/sn	20/5/sf
Nashville	50/31/pc	45/27/pc
New Orleans	64/49/s	53/40/r
New York City	46/36/r	43/31/s
Norfolk	55/38/pc	51/34/s
Oklahoma City	43/23/s	47/26/s
Omaha	25/13/c	24/9/c
Orlando	70/49/pc	72/50/sh
Philadelphia	48/34/r	44/30/s
Phoenix	60/37/pc	60/41/pc
Pittsburgh	40/27/c	31/24/sf
Portland, ME	38/35/sn	37/26/sn
Portland, OR	40/27/pc	41/34/c
Providence, RI	45/36/r	43/27/c
Raleigh, NC	55/32/s	51/27/pc
Reno, NV	37/16/s	40/20/s
Richmond	54/32/pc	50/29/s
Sacramento	53/28/s	54/34/s
St. Louis	35/24/pc	33/22/pc
St. Thomas, VI	85/73/pc	85/75/pc
Salt Lake City	26/13/pc	29/15/pc
San Diego	67/41/pc	64/47/c
San Francisco	57/39/s	55/41/s
San Juan, PR	85/75/pc	85/76/pc
Seattle	43/31/s	39/37/c
Spokane, WA	21/13/c	22/17/c
Syracuse	37/30/sn	37/25/sf
Tampa	73/52/pc	68/52/sh
Wichita	38/19/pc	41/20/s

WORLD	Today	Tomorrow
Addis Ababa	71/49/pc	72/46/c
Amsterdam	37/23/s	33/21/s
Athens	69/58/c	69/58/pc
Auckland	77/64/sh	70/63/r
Baghdad	72/51/s	71/49/s
Bangkok	89/72/s	88/66/c
Beijing	29/8/s	26/9/s
Berlin	27/22/s	29/18/s
Bogota	68/44/pc	68/47/r
Brussels	35/22/s	32/23/s
Buenos Aires	73/62/s	77/65/c
Cairo	76/59/s	76/59/pc
Caracas	75/64/pc	75/64/s
Copenhagen	29/23/sf	34/29/sh
Dakar	85/74/s	86/72/s
Dublin	37/31/pc	41/34/pc
Edinburgh	39/36/sf	40/33/c
Frankfurt	32/19/s	30/19/s
Geneva	42/27/c	33/25/pc
Ham., Bermuda	72/67/r	73/65/pc
Helsinki	20/2/c	26/22/sf
Ho Chi Minh City	91/73/t	91/72/t
Hong Kong	63/51/sh	56/46/pc
Islamabad	74/43/s	74/43/s
Istanbul	65/58/c	65/55/c
Jerusalem	66/51/s	68/52/s
Johannesburg	79/60/t	73/56/t
Kabul	57/33/s	57/32/s
Kingston, Jam.	86/76/s	87/76/pc
Kolkata	78/54/pc	78/54/pc
Kyiv	36/34/sn	39/23/c
Lagos	86/79/pc	86/78/sh
Lima	78/67/c	76/66/pc
Lisbon	61/50/sh	61/53/pc
London	37/26/s	42/28/pc
Madrid	50/39/pc	53/40/pc
Manila	89/78/pc	90/78/t
Mexico City	73/51/pc	73/51/s
Montreal	34/32/sn	34/27/sn
Moscow	23/13/sn	26/18/sn
Mumbai	93/78/pc	94/78/pc
Nairobi	81/61/pc	80/60/pc
New Delhi	74/50/pc	75/49/pc
Oslo	16/15/sn	25/23/sn
Ottawa	33/28/sn	33/20/sn
Paris	39/23/s	31/22/s
Prague	27/21/sn	28/11/s
Rio de Janeiro	83/73/t	81/73/sh
Riyadh	77/54/s	72/49/pc
Rome	64/51/r	62/47/s
San Salvador	90/66/s	88/67/s
Santiago	87/56/s	85/54/s
Sarajevo	64/45/r	48/34/pc
Seoul	24/15/pc	26/7/s
Shanghai	51/34/sh	41/23/s
Singapore	86/75/sh	86/75/t
Stockholm	13/9/pc	28/26/c
Sydney	67/58/s	68/59/pc
Taipei City	68/57/sh	59/46/r
Tehran	54/44/c	55/42/s
Tokyo	56/41/s	47/41/r
Toronto	39/25/sf	32/22/sf
Vienna	36/29/sn	32/17/pc
Warsaw	25/17/sn	21/15/pc

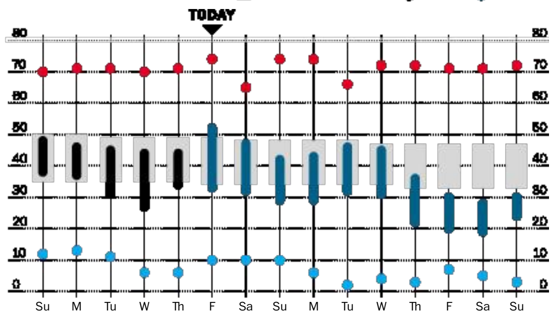
Key: s-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **r**-rain, **sh**- showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sources: **AccuWeather.com**; US Army Centralized Allergen Extract Lab (pollen data); airnow.gov (air quality data); National Weather Service

* AccuWeather's **RealFeel Temperature®** combines over a dozen factors for an accurate measure of how the conditions really "feel."

OFFICIAL RECORD

Temperatures

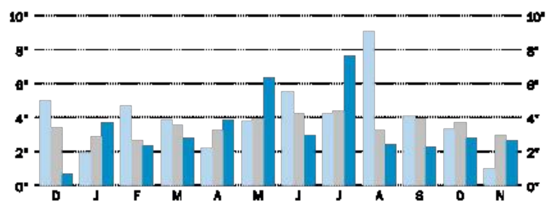


Statistics through 5 p.m. Thursday

	National	Dulles	BWI
High	**44°** 4:00 p.m.	**39°** 3:00 p.m.	**44°** 5:00 p.m.
Low	**34°** 6:51 a.m.	**33°** 6:00 a.m.	**33°** 5:40 a.m.
Normal	49°/35°	47°/29°	48°/30°
Record high	71° 1971	71° 1971	70° 1971
Record low	6° 1904	5° 1989	9° 1962

Difference from 30–yr. avg. (National): this month: **–0.4°** yr. to date: **+0.2°**

Precipitation



	National	Dulles	BWI
Past 24 hours	1.60"	1.67"	1.66"
Total this month	2.13"	2.07"	2.40"
Normal	1.74"	1.70"	1.89"
Total this year	41.78"	37.88"	44.78"
Normal	40.15"	41.64"	43.18"
Snow, past 24 hours	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"
Snow, season total	0.0"	Trace	0.0"

Moon Phases

Dec 16	**Dec 23**	**Dec 29**	**Jan 6**
Last Quarter	New	First Quarter	Full

Solar system

	Rise	Set
Sun	7:20 a.m.	4:47 p.m.
Moon	none	12:40 p.m.
Venus	8:24 a.m.	5:42 p.m.
Mars	3:43 p.m.	6:46 a.m.
Jupiter	12:28 p.m.	12:25 a.m.
Saturn	10:51 a.m.	9:12 p.m.

Brick by brick, Lego fan builds joy at children's hospitals

LEGOS FROM **B1**

Lego sets that are most requested by kids in hospitals.

He is hard to miss in his bright mohawk (dyed a different color every month) as he wheels cartloads piled with Lego kits into children's hospitals. For deliveries that are close to home, Cassevah often brings along his wife, Shannon Wolf, and their daughter, Faith, 9.

"She's as crazy about Legos as I am, and she loves to help out whenever possible," he said. "She knows how much kids love to build."

Cassevah said he was inspired to start Little Bricks in 2019 after he walked on Lego bricks to raise funds for Fairy Bricks, a nonprofit in Britain that gives free brick sets to kids. In 2017, somebody had stolen 2,000 Lego sets from one of the group's delivery vans.

"After I learned about the Fairy Bricks theft, I did some research about what Legos do for kids in hospitals," he said. "I knew then I'd found my purpose."

He was working at the time as a trainer for the Canon USA camera company and decided to use some of his earnings to buy Lego sets and deliver them to children's hospitals on the weekends.

In 2020, Cassevah said, his life was changed when he met a 1-year-old girl named Tessa who had brain cancer.

"She had the cutest laugh and this little mohawk going down the middle of her head," he recalled. "When she didn't make it, it rocked my life. I was devastated."

Cassevah said that to honor Tessa's memory, he shaved his head into a mohawk, quit his job and cashed in his retirement savings to focus full time on Little Bricks. His first big delivery was to Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk.

One of the hospitals on his tour is the University of Virginia Children's Hospital in Charlottesville, where he visited last month to drop off 240 Lego sets ($6,000 worth) for all age groups.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF RUSSELL CASSEVAH

LEFT: Russell Cassevah loads up on Lego sets during a run to a Virginia Lego store. ABOVE: Cassevah, who has set world records for walking on Lego bricks, prepares to undertake such a walk in Woodstock, Ill., in March 2021.

"Legos are one of our most requested toy items for patients, and a lot of times we can't keep up with demand and we run out," said Savannah Sweatman, a child life specialist at the hospital.

"Legos allow kids to just be kids while they're here, and for Russell to donate so many [sets] to us is exciting and generous," she said. "He came here with tons of energy and positivity, and everyone could tell he was passionate about what he does at Little Bricks."

Cassevah also recently completed a road trip to the Arkansas Children's Northwest Hospital in Springdale, where he donated $9,000 worth of new Lego sets to young patients.

One of them, Hewitt Kahana, was staying in the hospital for his third chemotherapy treatment when he spotted Cassevah with his blue mohawk haircut, sitting at a table covered with new Lego sets.

Hewitt, 11, has always been a Lego fan, and he had recently finished building a mini Egyptian pyramid at home in Springdale, Ark., in between treatments for a brain tumor.

"I was excited when I saw this guy, because you could tell he really loved Legos — just like me," he said.

When Cassevah noticed Hewitt's excitement, he said, he handed him a Lego Galaxy Explorer set and asked if he could help him to build it.

Hewitt enthusiastically said yes.

"He was really cool, and building Legos with him made me feel happy," he said. "It was fun to look at what I'd created with him and know that I did that. Plus, I got to take the Legos home."

"You could tell that Russell really cared about the kids and was there to bring smiles and encouragement," added Hewitt's mom, Christen Sluyter, 32. "It was wonderful to watch him and Hewitt building and laughing."

Cassevah said the memory of Hewitt's smile stayed with him as he drove about 14 hours home to Virginia.

"When I build with kids, my goal is to create fun memories and give them a voice and let them talk," he said. "Hewitt is articulate, and he knew so much about what he was going through. You could also tell that Legos were his escape and joy."

"More than anything, we laughed and had fun," Cassevah added. "Hewitt knew a lot about the bricks and even taught me a few things."

"My time with him reinforced my feeling that I'm on the right path," he said.

Subtract the noise. Add the experts. WELL+BEING FROM The Washington Post
N0549 1.5x12

The Washington Post
STYLE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022 EZ RE C

Chevron ads fuel ethics question

Journalist says media companies need harder line on fossil fuel money

BY PAUL FARHI

Journalist Bill Spindle spent part of 2022 traveling throughout India to study the effects of climate change. Over some 5,000 miles, he visited struggling mangrove forests and tea plantations, massive petrochemical plants and coastal areas facing flooding from rising sea levels.

His conclusion: Climate change has accelerated into an emergency. "We have to make changes, and we have to make them in a hurry," Spindle told The Washington Post.

So when he went to work covering climate issues for the start-up news site Semafor, he had some firm beliefs about the role of fossil fuels in the planet's warming. And he blanched when he saw who was sponsoring one of his first newsletters: Chevron, the second-largest oil and gas company in the United States.

Spindle protested that Chevron's logo atop his newsletter was an example of "greenwashing," or giving polluting companies the sheen of environmental responsibility.

But while Chevron disappeared as a sponsor of his newsletter, the company's ads continued to accompany Spindle's arti-

SEE SEMAFOR ON C3

A new era for the DC universe takes flight

BY DAVID BETANCOURT

Superman will indeed be back on the big screen. It just won't be Henry Cavill.

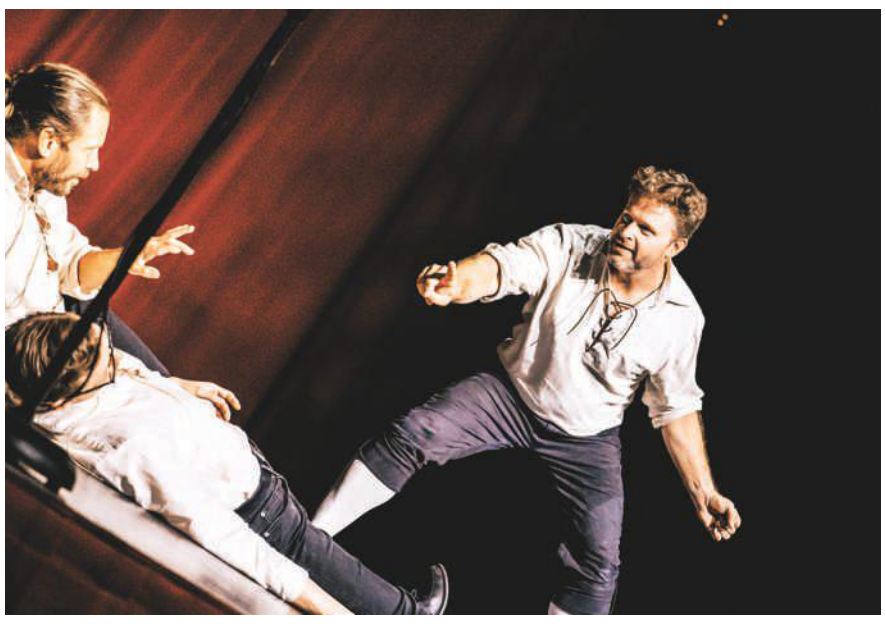
Wait, what?

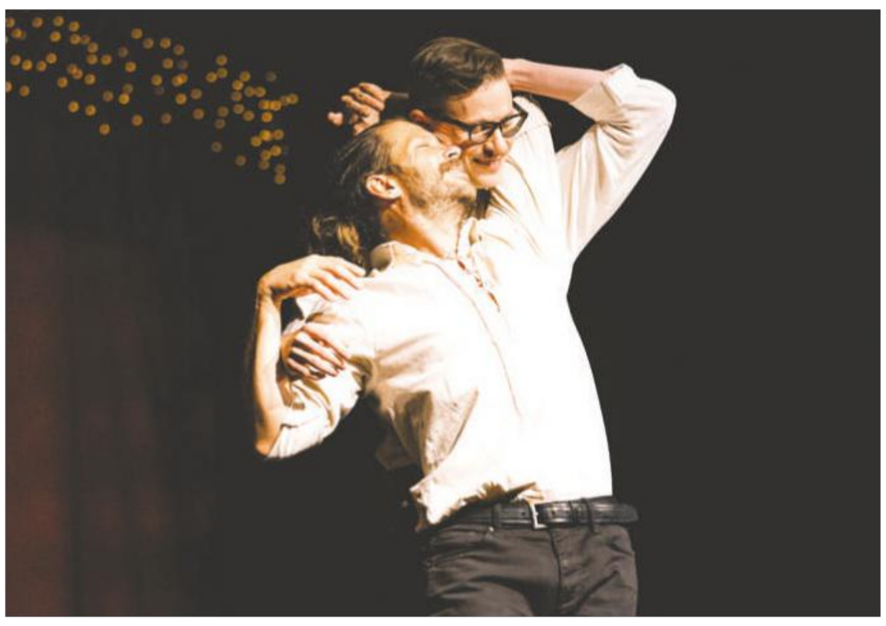
It hasn't even been a full two months since Cavill was seen with a big "S" on his chest in the "Black Adam" post-credits scene, having a square-jawed stare-down with Dwayne Johnson, correct? And Cavill announcing his return as Superman on social media?

Yes. That actually did happen. But the actor is now letting his millions of followers know the decision to bring him back as Superman has been shelved.

DC Studios' newly named co-head James Gunn announced to his 1.4 million Twitter followers Wednesday that he is currently writing a new Superman movie that will feature a less experienced Clark Kent getting to know his way around the Daily Planet newsroom. The role will be recast to fit an earlier part of the superhero's life. Gunn also said on Twitter he still doesn't know who the director will be, but it seems possible that the film would kick-start a new and potentially connected cinematic universe for DC Studios. And the announcement, along with a flurry of news in the past week, shows that the new leadership of Gunn and his DC

SEE GUNN ON C3







PHOTOS BY JILL PETRACEK

Improvising with the Bard

Each performance, this troupe crafts a Shakespeare-style play out of thin air, couplets and all

BY ZACHARY PINCUS-ROTH

The Improvised Shakespeare Company begins every show by asking the audience for the title of a new play they'd like to see. On Sunday afternoon, the loudest person in the room screamed, "Does This Look Infected?"

In the few seconds that it took Ross Bryant to step forward on the Kennedy Center stage to recite the play's prologue, his mind turned to a particularly Shakespearean form of sepsis — love. So he began spinning couplets on the injury from Cupid's arrow:

But aye, indeed, as he doth draw that bow in churlish finger

Aye, sometimes that wounded heart — that wound begins … to linger

Then the troupe was off on a 90-minute Grecian tale of mismatched and long-lost lovers, with mentions of "pus" and "fistula" and a reference to the Dave Matthews Band. Such is the unique magic of this show, in which five actors use the audience suggestion to conjure up a wildly entertaining Shakespeare-style play from scratch, with each embodying multiple characters, melding comedy and tragedy, and, yes, rhyming many of their lines. How is such a thing possible?

Blaine Swen started the troupe in 2005 in Chicago while getting his doctorate in philosophy at Loyola University, and it has grown to become "one of the country's elite improv companies," as the New York Times put it. For the four years preceding the pandemic, ISC played five times a week to packed houses at iO Theater in Chicago, where it's finally returning in January.

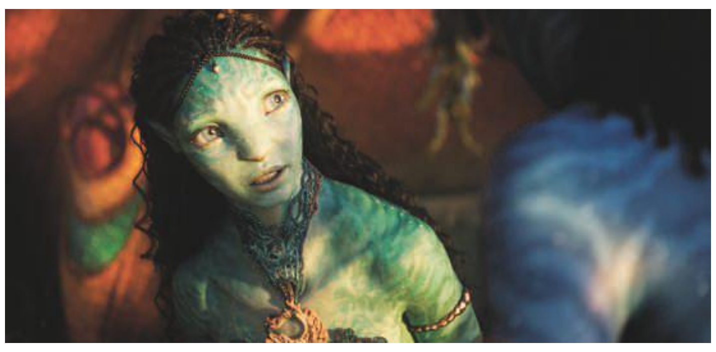
Some of its performers take the show to cities including Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, where the two-week run at the Kennedy Center ends Sunday. Swen aspires to a long New York run and is pitching a television special. He started the group with all men, to evoke an Elizabethan boy band, but added women as companies proliferated.

In a group interview after Sunday's show, Swen admits that first-time audience members are typically dragged along by insistent companions. As Bryant adds, "To a comedy

SEE IMPROV ON C2

Members of the Improvised Shakespeare Company, which formed in 2005 in Chicago, start each show by asking the audience for a title suggestion, then spin it into a full show. Above, from left, Blaine Swen, Greg Hess, Joey Bland and Ross Bryant during a performance.

MOVIES IN WEEKEND



Avatar: The Way of Water ★★☆☆

Chaos, cacophony drown out undersea beauty in sequel. **18**

Eo ★★★½

Donkey's odyssey is visually rich, emotionally devastating. **19**

5 revelations from second half of 'Harry & Meghan'

BY SONIA RAO

The second half of the limited series "Harry & Meghan" landed with a bang. While the first three episodes set the groundwork for royal drama, the latter three, released Thursday on Netflix, dive right in.

The series, produced under the Archewell Productions banner as part of the couple's Netflix deal, discusses Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, and Prince Harry's ongoing battle with British media — particularly as it relates to Meghan's lawsuit against the Mail on Sunday, which published a private letter she sent to her father. In addition to those claims, as well as looks into complicated family power dynamics that allegedly spurred fights, the series also includes intimate glimpses of Harry and Meghan's home life with their children, Archie and Lilibet, painting a fuller picture of their family today.

Here are five takeaways from the latter half of the limited series, which both Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace have refrained from commenting on.

Harry and Meghan suggest the palace fed negative stories about Meghan to British tabloids.

Despite the support Harry received from his father in planning a storybook wedding, as well as the relationship Meghan felt she fostered afterward with Queen Elizabeth II, Harry believes his family responded negatively to his wife's rising populari-

SEE ROYALS ON C2



PRINCE HARRY AND MEGHAN/NETFLIX

The final episodes of "Harry & Meghan" provide intimate glimpses of the couple's home life, as well as accusations of mistreatment by the palace.

Rapper Gunna released from jail after plea, while maintaining his innocence

BY PRAVEENA SOMASUNDARAM

Atlanta rapper Gunna was released from jail Wednesday after pleading guilty to a racketeering charge, though he maintains his innocence, according to his lawyer.

The artist, whose legal name is Sergio Kitchens, had been jailed in Fulton County, Ga., since May, when he was charged with conspiracy to violate the state's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), a law intended to combat organized crime. Kitchens and fellow Atlanta rapper Young Thug — whose legal name is Jeffery Lamar Williams — were among 28 defendants named in the May indictment, which alleged that associates of their Young Stoner Life record label were part of a Bloods-affiliated gang called Young Slime Life, or YSL.

Steve Sadow, Kitchens's attorney, confirmed to The Washington Post that Kitchens on Wednesday entered an Alford plea, in which a defendant pleads guilty while maintaining innocence. Kitchens was sentenced to five years in prison, with credit for the time he had already served and the remainder suspended, Sadow said.

In announcing the indictment in May, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis told reporters that many defendants in the case could be sentenced to life in prison, saying "it is my opinion that violence in our community deserves maximum penalties."

Had his case gone to trial, Kitchens could have faced a sentence of between five and 20 years.

When he first joined YSL in 2016, Kitchens said in a statement through his attorney, he "did not consider it a 'gang'" but rather a "group of people from metro Atlanta who had common interests and artistic aspirations."

Kitchens added in the statement that he has not been cooperating with prosecutors and has not agreed to testify for or against anyone else involved in the case.

"I have chosen to end my own RICO case with an Alford plea and end my personal ordeal by publicly acknowledging my association with YSL," he wrote.



SCOTT GARFITT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunna was indicted in May on a racketeering charge.

Kitchens's plea requires him to complete 500 hours of community service. For 350 of those hours, "he will speak to young men and women about the hazards and immorality of gangs and gang violence, and the decay that it causes in our communities," according to Sadow.

The agreement with prosecutors also prohibits Kitchens from possessing guns or contacting any of the co-defendants, unless it is through his attorneys or the music label.

The Fulton County District Attorney's office did not respond to a request for comment.

A two-time Grammy nominee, Gunna has worked with Young Thug multiple times, including this year on the hit "Pushin P," which had a Top 10 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 list.

In the 88-page May indictment, lyrics and music videos from both of the rappers were cited as evidence — a controversial practice objected to by artists.

"It is intensely problematic that the state relies on song lyrics as part of its allegations," Kitchens's legal team wrote in a May motion. "These lyrics are an artist's creative expression and not a literal recounting of facts and circumstances."

Helena Andrews-Dyer, Julian Mark and Sonia Rao contributed to this report.

All the world's a stage, and these players are making theirs up as they go

IMPROV FROM C1

nerd, Improvised Shakespeare Company sounds like cringe and run." But many come back for their second, fifth or 20th show.

The humor often comes from the clash of florid language and contemporary references. A year ago, an audience member suggested the title "Taylor's Version," referring to the albums that Taylor Swift had rerecorded. The play centered on Talia, who wrote songs about her ex-boyfriends on the lute. The man who pined for her asked a tailor to create an outfit to make him look like the duke she was being forced to marry. At the happy end, the wedding officiant declared they would "ever ever ever be together."

Lots of Bernie and Trump title suggestions popped up circa 2016. In one basketball-themed show, the cast managed to mention every NBA team. Through these seemingly frivolous details, Swen says, "they're having kind of the experience of being an actual groundling in Shakespeare's time." The playwright would drop allusions to Elizabethan politics that are lost on us today. "Shakespeare's audience got it right away. They were laughing and raucous and loving it."

"Seinfeld" actor Jason Alexander saw the group at a benefit and "lost my mind. And I also thought, 'There must be a gimmick. They must have preplanned some of this,'" he says. Later, he was a guest performer and confirmed that it was all made up on the spot.

Patrick Stewart has also guest-performed, and wrote in an essay for American Theatre magazine that "it became clear to me there was only one thing to do: listen, Listen, LISTEN. Simply the fundamental element of all good acting."

There are other rules of thumb. The prologue is usually followed





PHOTOS BY JILL PETRACEK

LEFT: ISC members Joey Bland (left), Greg Hess and Ross Bryant. RIGHT: Bland and Blaine Swen. Humor comes from a clash of florid language and modern references.

by three scenes setting up the main characters, then a group scene with a song. Performers have to locate the core of any well-drawn character: What do they want? (Usually to love or kill someone.) How will they get it? What stands in their way? An actor might enter a scene with a posture that conveys high or low status, to signal who they might be.

If a character's goal lacks an obstacle, they'll quickly need a scene to create one. "It has more legs if it's generated by other characters wanting things," Swen says, "not just 'I want to marry Juliet, and Juliet's 100 miles away.' It's 'I want to marry Juliet, but her father wants her to marry someone else.'"

Over the years, the troupe has added more emotion, to help make it less parody and more love letter. They allow the laughs to stop as one performer takes time to ponder, say, the fleeting nature of youth. In conventional improv, murdering your scene partner is bad manners. In this show, murdering your scene partner is done emphatically.

In "very few other improv shows I've been in are the people in the audience really invested by an improvised scene's love story," says Bryant. "Or cheering when someone comes back," says Greg Hess. "Or screams when you kill somebody," says Joey Bland. (Full disclosure, I am friends with Bland's brother.)

The actors' training regimen has involved audio versions, movie adaptations, vocabulary quizzes, translation drills and even discussions of Plato's "Republic" to enrich their themes and metaphors.

Asher Perlman, a New Yorker cartoonist and writer for "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert," says that when he was performing with ISC, he would practice rhyming while walking to the theater: "I would look at something in the street, like street, even, defeat, complete, neat, and then look up and see a billboard, floored, cord."

When you first do the show, he adds, "you can feel your brain sifting through every word in the dictionary. Once you've done it enough, you've rhymed enough words that you have your own internal database. There are only so many words that rhyme with love, like glove, above, shove."

ISC isn't the only group to come up with the Shakespearean concept. The Soothplayers puts on "Completely Improvised Shakespeare" in Australia. In 1999, LA's Impro Theatre began "Shakespeare UnScripted," which now starts with the conceit that the audience is at an Italian restaurant where the waiters are an amateur troupe.

The Britain-based Impromptu Shakespeare passes out ping-pong balls with tropes written on them, asks the audience to throw them into an actor's oversized pants and picks out four to incorporate. "We're all pretty well practiced at metaphor — going, 'is not a house like a tree' and then exploring why that metaphor works," says group member James Whittaker. "And justification is a big thing in improv. It makes you say a thing, and you work out why you said it afterward."

In ISC's "Does This Look Infected?" on Sunday, a Grecian lover played by Brendan Dowling made the offhand comment, "I have suffocated the very mailbox of Phoebe's home with the parchments of my poesy, and she has said, 'Stop it. I am missing important documentation.'" In the next scene, Swen picked up on the suggestion and had his Phoebe search in vain for her tax bill, prompting the collector to appear and threaten execution.

Backstage before every show, the five actors turn to each partner and say, "I've got your back."

"And they really do," Alexander says. "If you go out there and you make a mistake, you go down the wrong road or you try something that doesn't work, they save you and they make it work."

And the Bard himself is unpredictable already, Bryant points out, before citing moments from memory: "Cymbeline" has Jupiter enter astride an eagle. "Henry VI, Part 2" has two severed heads kissing. "There's no image more twisted, violent, weird, strange, discordant, odd, surreal that we could make up," he says, "that's not in these plays."

Second half of 'Harry & Meghan' looks at complicated family power dynamics

ROYALS FROM C1

ty with the media. The series paints Harry and Meghan's high-profile tour of Australia and the South Pacific in 2018 as a turning point for how British media treated them. After that, it posits, the palace aimed to seize back power by planting negative stories about Meghan to let the rest of the family off easier.

The couple's attorney, Jenny Afia, states in the series that she has "certainly seen evidence that there was negative briefing from the palace against Harry and Meghan to suit other people's agendas."

Harry at one point notes that "the issue is, when someone who's marrying in [and] should be a supporting act is then stealing the limelight or doing better in the job than the person who's born to do it, that upsets people."

Meghan says she wasn't allowed to seek help to better her mental health.

In last year's sit-down television interview with Oprah Winfrey, Meghan said that the constant barrage of negative press contributed to her experiencing suicidal thoughts. She expresses the same sentiment in the Netflix series, in which she also states that palace officials, who exercised great control over her day-to-day, denied her the ability to seek help because they were concerned how it would reflect upon the "institution," or the palace and royal family.

Meghan confided in her mother, Doria Ragland, about what she was going through. Ragland tears up in the series as she recalls the moment. "I knew that it was bad, but to be constantly picked at by these vultures, just picking away at her spirit, that she would actually think of not wanting to be here — that's not an easy one for a mom to hear," Ragland says. "And I can't protect her. H can't protect her."

While Meghan has maintained that Harry was supportive of her in this time, he stated that he has some regrets because he feels he "dealt with it as institutional Harry as opposed to husband Harry."

"What took over my feelings was my royal role," he says. "I had been trained to worry more about: 'What are people going to think if we don't go to this event? We're going to be late.' And looking back at it now, I hate myself for it."

Harry recalls Prince William yelling at him over his desire to step back from royal duties.

In an effort to regain control of his life, Harry expressed to his father that he wished to move his family to another country and step back from royal duties in some capacity. Tabloids caught wind of a plan for Harry and Meghan to move to South Africa, which was then scrapped. Eventually, they thought of permanently relocating to Canada.

Harry recalls meeting with his brother, father and grandmother at Sandringham, a country estate where they used to spend holidays, to discuss his future in the family. The conversation didn't go as well as he hoped.

"It was terrifying to have my brother scream and shout at me, and my father say things that just simply weren't true, and my grandmother quietly sit there and sort of take it all in," he says. "But you have to understand that from the family's perspective, especially from hers, there are ways of doing things, and her ultimate



PRINCE HARRY AND MEGHAN/NETFLIX

Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex. New episodes of the couple's limited series for Netflix include allegations that the royal palace fed negative stories about Meghan to British tabloids.

mission, goal-slash-responsibility, is the institution."

When rumors spread that William had "bullied" Harry and Meghan out of the family, the palace issued a statement attempting to squash the idea. Harry says he was never informed of the statement ahead of time and laments that "they were happy to lie to protect my brother, and yet for three years they were never willing to tell the truth to protect us."

"The saddest part of it was this wedge created between myself and my brother, so that he's now on the institution's side," Harry says of the situation. "And I get that. Part of that, I get. I understand. That's his inheritance."

Harry believes Meghan experienced a miscarriage due to stress over a tabloid story.

Even after her wedding, Meghan's estranged father, Thomas Markle, continued to speak negatively to the media about his relationship with his daughter. Meghan says senior members of the royal family encouraged her to write him a letter, which she cautiously sent to a business manager in Los Angeles who would then route it to Markle. The contents of this letter became public anyway and were published in the Mail on Sunday tabloid.

The palace discouraged Harry and Meghan from suing the Mail for publishing excerpts from the private letter, so the couple sought "separate legal advice" and went ahead with the help of Afia, their attorney. Meghan notes that "everything changed after that," and says "that litigation was the catalyst probably for all of the unraveling."

The proceedings went on for years, stretching into when Harry and Meghan moved to Santa Barbara, Calif., in 2020 while she was pregnant with their second child. She suffered a miscarriage on their first day in the home, an experience she later wrote about in a New York Times column.

"I believe my wife suffered a miscarriage because of what the Mail did," Harry says in the series. "I watched the whole thing."

Meghan eventually won the case at the end of last year, writing in a statement that it was "a victory not just for me, but for anyone who has ever felt scared to stand up for what's right."

Tyler Perry took Harry and Meghan in after they lost their security detail.

After Harry and Meghan stepped back from their royal responsibilities and relocated to Vancouver Island, off Canada's Pacific Coast, the palace stripped them of their security detail. They were still experiencing widespread harassment and death threats — even receiving suspicious packages, according to the couple. The moment their rental property's location was published in the tabloids, they knew they needed to relocate quickly.

Meghan thought back to a note she received years before from actor and filmmaker Tyler Perry, a stranger at the time who had been inspired to tell Meghan he was praying for her after seeing how her father spoke of her in the media. (Perry says in the series that some of his family members changed, too, after he became famous.) She and Harry left Vancouver Island early in the pandemic and stayed at Perry's property in Beverly Hills for six weeks.

When their daughter, Lilibet, was born, Harry and Meghan asked Perry to be the godfather. He agreed, on the condition that he wouldn't have to attend a christening in Britain with the royal family in attendance.

HarperCollins strike holds implications for publishing industry and readers

BY MAHAM JAVAID



BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS

Striking workers at HarperCollins walk a picket line in New York on Nov. 15.

It's been more than a month since Laura Harshberger, a senior production editor at HarperCollins, stopped producing children's books and went on strike with more than 200 colleagues in New York City.

"We are not striking against our job but for our jobs," she told The Washington Post. "We want to work for HarperCollins, but we want to work for them with dignity, respect and fair wages."

The striking workers — who are from the editorial, sales, publicity, design, legal and marketing departments — have three demands: HarperCollins should raise its minimum starting salary from $45,000 to $50,000, address the lack of diversity in its workforce and provide more security for unionized workers.

In an open letter to authors and agents, HarperCollins CEO Brian Murray said the company's current compensation offerings are consistent with peers in the publishing industry.

Workers say that is precisely the problem. "The industry has long been notorious for low salaries. But while the world has changed and the cost of living increases, publishing has not changed with it," said David Palmer, a senior production editor at the company.

HarperCollins, a subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., is one of the five top publishers in the United States.

The outcome of the strike, which began Nov. 10, could go well beyond whether junior editors can afford to live in New York City and may have a ripple effect on jobs across the publishing industry. Its impact may be seen in the quantity and diversity of books that are published for years to come, including whether a book is published because it is good, novel and unique, or whether it's just a book that CEOs believe will make money.

On their way into the industry, young staffers are told about low pay, long hours and that they are replaceable. PEN America recently reported that "the publishing industry, and the books it puts out, remain disproportionately white," and people of color who are part of the industry are overwhelming bundled at the bottom of the ladder. As rents rise in New York, the heart of publishing, the question of who can afford to work in publishing looms large.

"No one is doing their best work when they are worried about making rent," said Stephanie Guerdan, an associate editor at HarperCollins. "Without a fair contract, only those who can afford to work in publishing will stay."

Guerdan has been at HarperCollins for six years. She juggles 25 books and their authors on her own — editing manuscripts, coordinating with marketing and more — and assists her editors with scores more. She describes being an associate editor as a "dream job" but adds, "No one should have to put their life on hold and make financial sacrifices to do the job they love."

"I wish I could be editing right now," she said. "Instead, the management's refusal to negotiate with the union has led us to stand outside in the cold."

Some of the striking workers have been in the industry for decades. Palmer, who has been in publishing for 30 years, said he decided to strike "primarily to help the people who are starting their careers, and who hopefully won't have to put in 30 years before they can live in NYC without a roommate."

Outside of HarperCollins, industry professionals such as Molly McGhee believe that the result of the strike will set a precedent for the type of books readers will get to read for years to come.

"In the last decade, book outputs have increased, and editorial staff has decreased," said McGhee, who has worked for various publishers for eight years. "Unless enough diverse editors have the time to read and push forward unique books, CEOs will only greenlight the types of books that have previously made money."

The skewed ratio of books to editors leads to "crashing" — a term used to describe the process of rushing books through production. Sometimes crashing can be planned, but more often it happens because editors can't spare the time a book deserves.

"One out of every 20 books can be 'crashed,' but right now the statistic is closer to 10 out of 20," McGhee said.

"Reading is a love that is cultivated, and right now, publishing houses are disrespecting readers by putting out books that are being rushed through production," she said. "It's an open secret that agents are filling in editorial roles because editors are swamped."

Striking workers said that readers are also being adversely affected in the short term.

Readers are not learning about books the way they did a month ago because most of the social media team is striking, Harshberger said. "They will also not have access to as many reviews because we have asked reviewers to hold publishing reviews until the strike is over," she said.

Another concern for readers is that some agents and authors are not submitting new projects to HarperCollins until the strike ends, and this will delay production for readers, Harshberger said.

A HarperCollins spokeswoman said in an email to the The Post that the protracted strike has not affected book sales, marketing plans or publishing timelines for the company. But striking workers said that their nonstriking colleagues have told them the company is scrambling for temps and interns.

These are the busiest weeks of the year because editors try to wrap up as much as possible before the holidays, Guerdan said.

"Instead of spending money on temps, it would be smart for the company to get us back to the bargaining table and back to work," she said.

HarperCollins workers have had a union since before the company was bought by Murdoch in the 1980s. When workers last went on strike in 1974, it went on for almost three weeks before a new contract was agreed.

Olga Brudastova, president of the UAW Local 2110, which represents HarperCollins's unionized employees, remembers two "particularly long" strikes from the past: one at Barnard College in the 1990s and the other at the Museum of Modern Art in the 2000s.

"Workers prevailed in both strikes," she said. "Once a contract is successfully bargained, the positive effects last for a long time."

Many of the striking workers said that this strike is larger than HarperCollins. "There is so much at stake for the publishing industry," said Harshberger. "When we defeat these artificially low wages, the entire industry will be guaranteed a living wage."

HarperCollins told The Post that it has been negotiating in good faith for more than a year with the union and agreed to numerous proposals that the union is seeking to include in a new contract.

"We remain ready to continue our negotiations with the union and to reach agreement on a contract that is fair to both employees and the company," HarperCollins spokeswoman Erin Crum said via email.

Guerdan said that it was the union that made the last move. About a week before the strike began, the union put a proposal on the table, but the company walked away and later said they would be rejecting the offer, she said.

"The ball is in their court. We can't be bargaining against ourselves," she said. "They can call us back to the table. Until then, we will be here in the cold for as long as it takes."

Henry Cavill won't be back as Superman, as Gunn implements his DC plan

GUNN FROM C1



ROBYN BECK/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

James Gunn, co-head of DC Studios, is writing a movie focused on a less experienced Clark Kent.



MARIO ANZUONI/REUTERS

Henry Cavill donned the "S" on his chest in the "Black Adam" post-credits scene just weeks ago.

Studios co-head Peter Safran appears to be quite a turn from the previous regime.

It seems they figured it was best to rip the Superman Band-Aid off and move forward. Gunn also mentioned on Twitter that he and Cavill spoke to each other, and they didn't rule out a potential return for the actor in another DC role somewhere down the line. That is if Kevin Feige and Marvel Studios don't immediately swoop in with, say, a Captain Britain/Excalibur script, which might be a perfect fit.

Gunn's quick-draw Twitter fingers represent a new era at DC: namely, a superhero-movie-making studio head who makes news on social media. Feige is not much of a tweeter, posting less than 200 times. Gunn isn't an avid tweeter, either (he's kind of busy of late, if you haven't noticed), but he has established he'll use social media to get the word out and occasionally debunk wild rumors in a genre that always has people throwing them around.

Cavill's Superman news comes on the heels of director Patty Jenkins announcing she won't be moving forward with a third Wonder Woman film at DC, putting into doubt the likelihood that Gal Gadot will return, as well. Gadot, despite the mixed reviews for "Wonder Woman 1984," accomplished the seemingly impossible task of becoming a princess of Themyscira for a new generation in the shadow of Lynda Carter's timeless portrayal. But it's hard to see her moving forward in this role without Jenkins and in a rethought DC movie universe.

Gunn has proven himself to be a dedicated comic book reader, making his name in superhero cinema by writing and directing projects with characters that even the most hardcore fans overlook (Guardians of the Galaxy, Peacemaker, his Suicide Squad roster). His first big tweet as the head of DC Studios featured cover art from "Kingdom Come," by Mark Waid and Alex Ross, arguably one of the greatest DC stories ever told. He wants everyone to know he knows where the good stuff is in the DC library. The pages of DC Comics currently have two incredible Wonder Women of color, Nubia and Yara Flor, who could serve as interesting options for Gunn as he builds his own Justice League.

There are many other tough decisions for Gunn and Safran to make. They will have to decide whether four already-scheduled 2023 movies will be part of the new universe they are building or exist outside of it. March will bring "Shazam! Fury of the Gods," a sequel to actor Zachary Levi's kid-turned-adult-superhero action comedy. "The Flash," with the at-times-controversial Ezra Miller and the much-hyped return of Michael Keaton as Batman, arrives in June. August's "Blue Beetle" stars Xolo Maridueña, as DC's first Latino superhero. DC's billion-dollar grossing king of the seas, played by Jason Momoa, is returning in "Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom" in December. Miller and Momoa, like Cavill and Gadot, are holdovers from the Zack Snyder Justice League universe, and it's entirely possible these films could be their DC swan song. Perhaps the only Snyderverse holdover will be former Batman and current Jennifer Lopez husband Ben Affleck, who Gunn confirmed via a tweet that he had spoken with about potentially directing for DC Studios in the near future.

More alternative DC universes are still in play, as well. Gunn has yet to dispute Variety's report based on anonymous sources that the J.J. Abrams/Ta-Nehisi Coates Black Superman project is still moving forward. (Which is good. Because that's an action figure I need.)

And what about the current Batman? The Dark Knight's cinematic adventures are arguably the most important franchise at DC. Rumors have been circulating that Gunn and Safran are considering placing director Matt Reeves's Batman world (with star Robert Pattinson) into their planned DC universe. Will the brooding Pat-Bat be seen gritting his teeth next to Gunn's soon-to-be handpicked Superman? Gunn says no. And yes, he said it with a tweet.

A 2024 "Joker" sequel starring Lady Gaga as Harley Quinn also looks like it will exist outside whatever DC currently has cooking, just like the original Joaquin Phoenix film.

You can't make a new superhero universe without breaking a few franchises. Warner Bros. made it clear it has oversized ambitions for its DC properties when it threw the word "studios" into the mix. It is a message that it feels it has the potential to be on even footing with the decade-long success of Marvel Studios. But WB didn't bring in Gunn to be just as good as its rival. This move was made to make DC Studios potentially better. Many have forgotten that DC was once the champion of this stuff. Christopher Reeve. Keaton. Carter. DC brought its legends to the screen long before Marvel Studios was a thing. But it hasn't held the crown in a very long time.

Gunn and Safran have put everyone in Hollywood and all fans of superhero cinema on notice. The only way DC Studios is going to beat the best to be the best is to start over.

To journalist's dismay, his climate newsletter was sponsored by Chevron

SEMAFOR FROM C1

cles elsewhere on the website. Barely three months into the job, he was dismissed from Semafor.

"I made clear to them that I didn't see a path forward," he said.

Semafor is reluctant to address the specifics of Spindle's employment but said his dismissal had nothing to do with its advertising partnerships. The site's editor and co-founder Ben Smith deferred to the company's previous statement, which cited its "robust" advertising policy and added, "We did not remove advertising due to editorial requests and have a number of rotating sponsors of the climate newsletter."

Spindle's public criticism of Semafor's ad policies offers an unusual glimpse into discussions that typically stay behind the scenes. Mainstream journalists tend to avoid raising objections to advertising that supports their work — which they typically have little say over anyway. And media outlets are often loath to turn down ads or sponsorship when the news industry is facing cutbacks and layoffs.

But Spindle, a 60-year-old former Wall Street Journal editor and reporter, argues that it's time the news media makes a hard choice about associating with the makers of fossil fuels, which scientists overwhelmingly believe are destabilizing Earth's climate by pumping massive amounts of heat-trapping molecules into the atmosphere. He compares the industry to tobacco marketers, whose ads were banished from radio and television by a federal law in 1970 because of rising health concerns.

"It's certainly not easy to say, 'Be gone with it.' . . . But business as usual is just not going to cut it anymore."

Bill Spindle, a journalist, speaking on the need for media organizations to set more boundaries around fossil fuel advertising

Oil, gas and coal are "inherently harmful products," Spindle said. "The decisions we make in the next five years are going to be absolutely critical. We may not be able to get rid of our dependence on [fossil fuels] in that time, but that really needs to be the goal."

He's up against a juggernaut, estimates of the oil industry's marketing and public-relations expenditures suggest. One calculation, based on publicly available tax records, found that the industry's main trade and lobbying group, the American Petroleum Institute, alone spent $663 million on its communications between 2008 and 2017.

This is dwarfed by the annual communications budgets of such oil and gas giants as ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Chevron and the French firm TotalEnergies. These five companies spent roughly $750 million on messaging last year, according to InfluenceMap, a London-based organization that specializes in climate research.

While many news organizations accept the industry's ads, allegations of greenwashing efforts have periodically flared. Houston Public Media pulled the plug on a video series in which energy executives spoke of their commitment to sustainable energy earlier this year, after acknowledging it was not produced by journalists and was sponsored by Chevron.

The Washington Post's website hosts what resembles a news article titled "Why natural gas will thrive in the age of renewables," complete with utopian illustrations of blue waters and green hills. A banner at the top of the page notes it was created by The Post's branding studio for the American Petroleum Institute, the industry's leading trade organization. The New York Times' marketing arm has produced similar "native" ads for ExxonMobil and Chevron.

News organizations typically enforce ethical standards that prevent advertisers from influencing their newsrooms. And Spindle has made clear that Chevron's sponsorship never influenced his reporting. But for him and others, even a superficial association between news coverage and the fossil fuel industry is problematic.

Emails uncovered by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and released last week showed executives of some of the world's major oil companies dismissing the notion that renewable energy would replace fossil fuels quickly, even as their firms publicly portray themselves as leaders in the effort.

"These documents demonstrate how the fossil-fuel industry 'greenwashed' its public image with promises and actions that oil and gas executives knew would not meaningfully reduce emissions, even as the industry moved aggressively to lock in continued fossil fuel production for decades to come," the committee's chair, Carolyn B. Maloney (D-N.Y.), and Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), chair of the environment subcommittee, said in a memo outlining their findings.

InfluenceMap's research found that 60 percent of the public messages from five large oil companies contained claims to be proactive on climate change.

Yet the outfit estimates that those companies will spend only about 12 percent of their capital budgets on "low-carbon" projects this year.

The only major English-language news organization known to have publicly spurned the industry's ads has been the Guardian. The British-based news company announced in early 2020 that it would no longer accept ads from "fossil fuel extractive companies," citing "the decades-long efforts by many [energy companies] to prevent meaningful climate action by governments around the world."

Spindle doubts that many news organizations will follow the Guardian's lead anytime soon. But he says that media bosses should consider an "easy" first step: segregating fossil fuel advertising from climate news coverage.

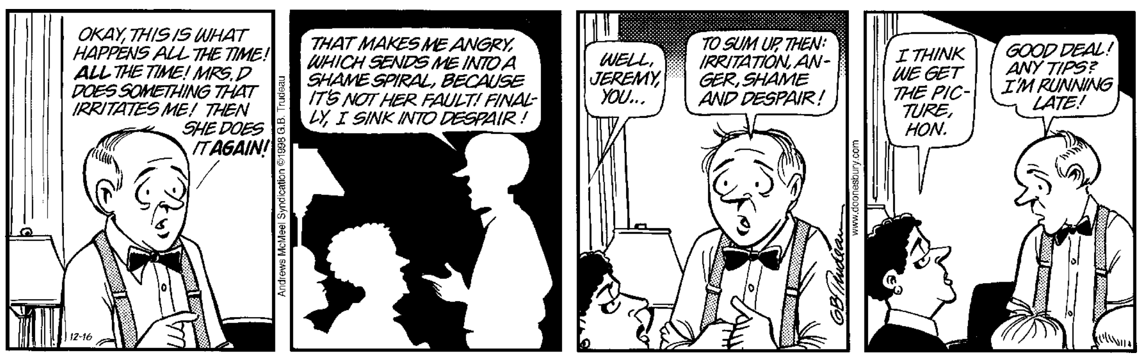
Doing so would prevent industry sponsors from creating the "disingenuous" impression that the companies are supportive of news about efforts to combat climate change, he said.

Some European governments are starting to restrict fossil fuel advertising, just as the U.S. government did with cigarette advertising decades ago. In August, France banned ads for fossil fuel products, including gasoline. Amsterdam banned such ads from its subway stations and city center last year.

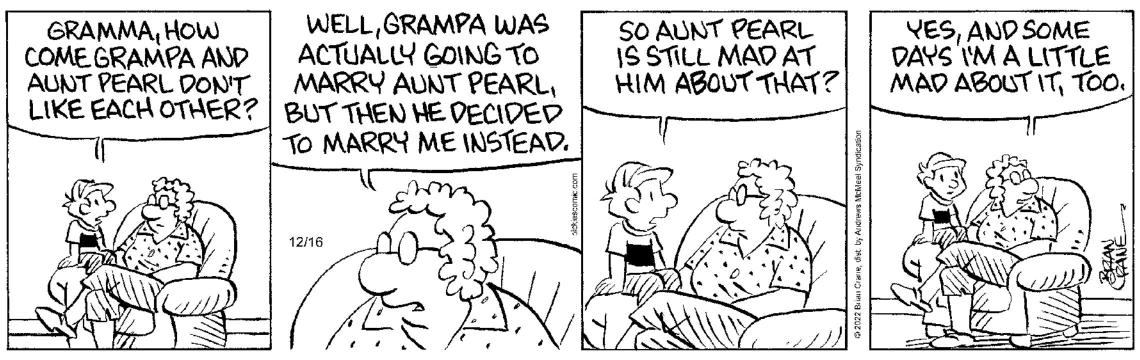
And Britain's official advertising watchdog, the Advertising Standards Authority, in October banned two ads for HSBC bank, saying they were misleading because they failed to mention the bank's role in financing fossil fuel projects.

"We've all got to acknowledge that this isn't easy," Spindle said. "And it's certainly not easy to say, 'Be gone with it.' ... But business as usual is just not going to cut it anymore."

CLASSIC DOONESBURY — GARRY TRUDEAU



PICKLES — BRIAN CRANE



BRIDGE

N-S VULNERABLE

NORTH
♠ K 5 3
♥ Q 10 4
♦ 10 8 3
♣ Q J 10 6

WEST
♠ A J
♥ J 9 6 5 3
♦ A Q 5 2
♣ 9 5

EAST
♠ 10 9 8 6 2
♥ 8
♦ K 9 6
♣ 8 4 3 2

SOUTH (D)
♠ Q 7 4
♥ A K 7 2
♦ J 7 4
♣ A K 7

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♥ 5

Unlucky Louie and I were out Christmas shopping. His feet were tired, and he begged for a respite.

"I'm wiped out," Louie groaned as we sat on a bench in the mall, "and my credit card is swiped out."

Louie could pay his credit card bill if he lost less in his penny game. As today's West, he led a heart against 3NT. Dummy's 10 won, and declarer next led a spade from dummy: 10, queen, ace. East's 10 indicated a sequential holding, so Louie returned the jack. That suited South; he claimed four hearts, four clubs and a spade.

Louie could take the cash and let the credit go if he drew an inference. South is marked with the A-K of hearts. If he needed to set up the clubs, he would have started promptly: He wouldn't be attacking spades, which might set up winners for the defense.

Louie can place South with the A-K of clubs. But then South can't have the king of diamonds, giving him too many points to open 1NT. At Trick Three, Louie must lead the deuce of diamonds.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A J ♥ J 9 6 5 3 ♦ A Q 5 2 ♣ 9 5

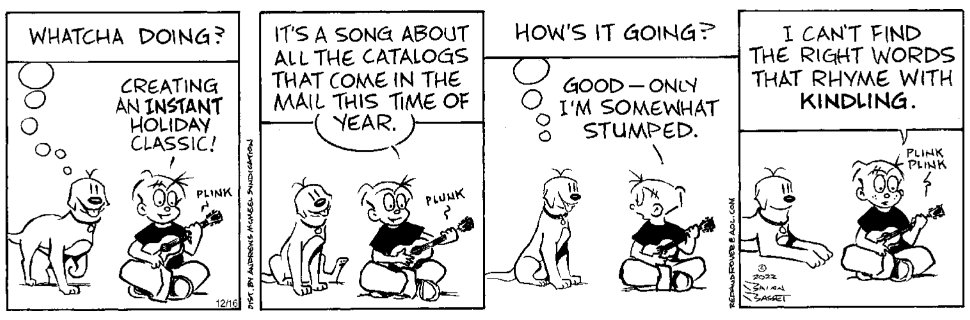
Your partner opens one club, you respond one heart and he bids one spade. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: To blast into 3NT would be defensible; you have 12 points and the unbid diamond suit twice stopped. Still, partner might pass with a hand such as K Q 5 3, None, K J 6 3, A Q 10 4 2, expecting you to have more heart strength. Bid two diamonds, a forcing bid in a new suit, and see what he bids next.

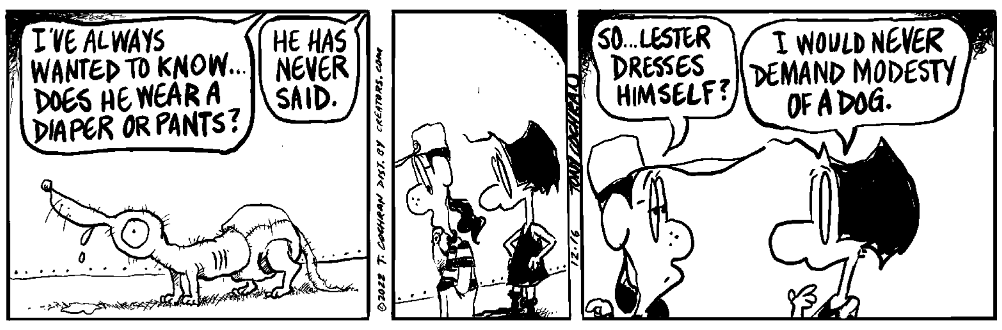
— *Frank Stewart*

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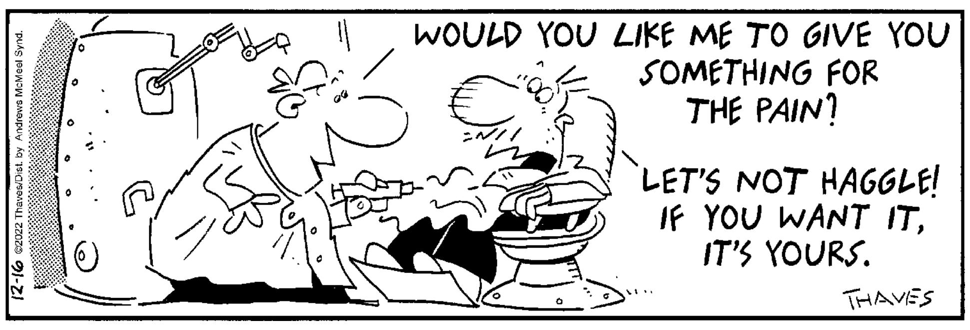
RED AND ROVER — BRIAN BASSET



AGNES — TONY COCHRAN



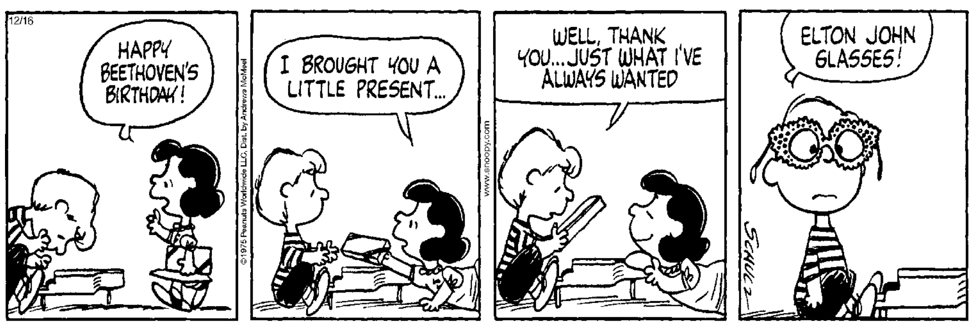
FRANK AND ERNEST — TOM THAVES



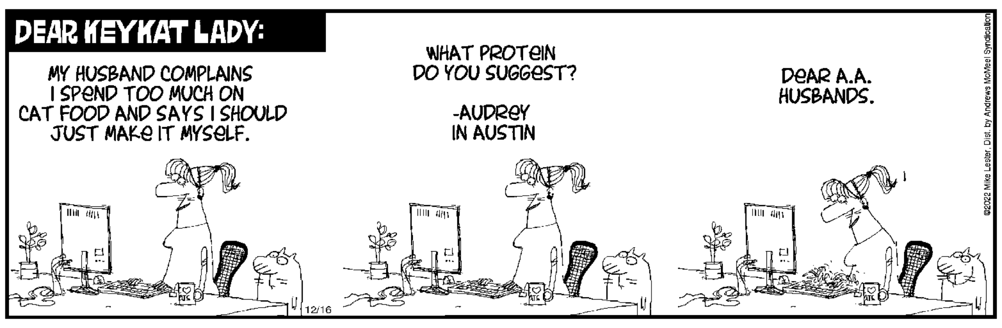
WUMO — MIKAEL WULFF & ANDERS MORGENTHALER



CLASSIC PEANUTS — CHARLES SCHULZ



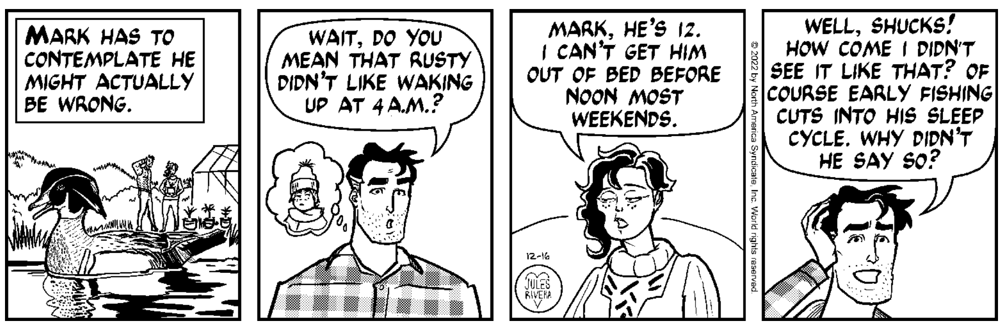
MIKE DU JOUR — MIKE LESTER



RHYMES WITH ORANGE — HILARY PRICE



MARK TRAIL — JULES RIVERA



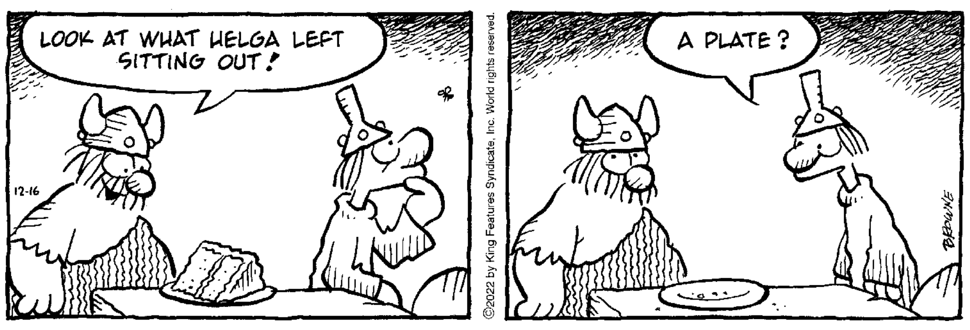
LIO — MARK TATULLI



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM — MIKE PETERS



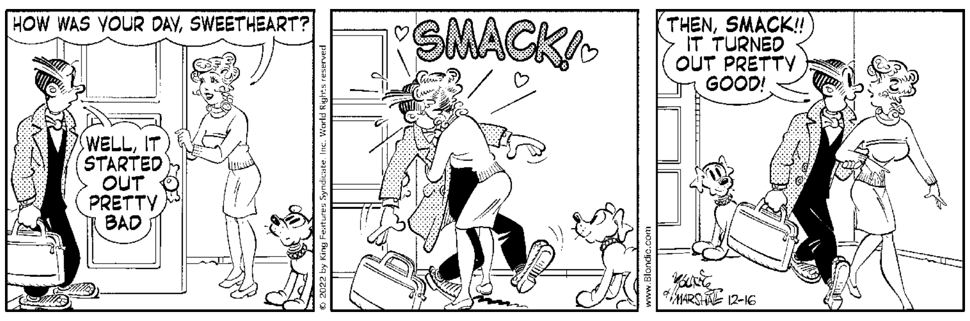
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — CHRIS BROWNE



BALDO — HECTOR CANTU & CARLOS CASTELLANOS



BLONDIE — DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL



SALLY FORTH — FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	9			8			6	
6			4		3			
		1		7	6	3		
						6	4	
4	3			1			5	9
	2	8						
		3	1	2		8		
			7		8			5
	7			4			2	

12/16

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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RACK 1: A1 A1 N1 F4 M3 G2 L1 — 3rd Letter Double

RACK 2: I1 U1 H4 R1 S1 B3 N1

RACK 3: A1 E1 E1 X8 T1 L1 H4

RACK 4: I1 O1 O1 U1 S1 P3 C3 — Triple Word Score

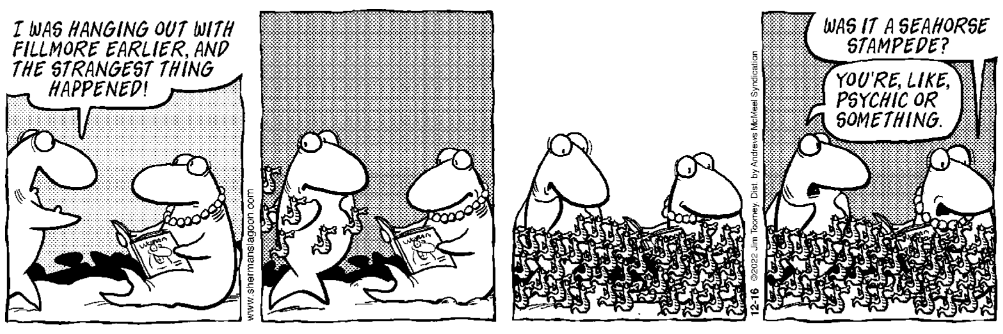
PAR SCORE 155-165 FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
BEST SCORE 225 TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

12-16

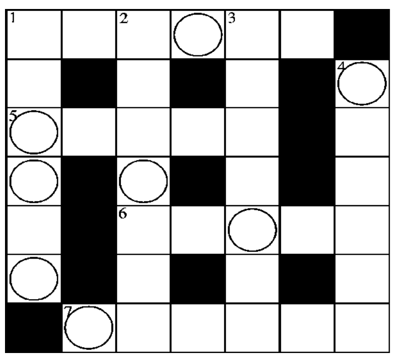
SHERMAN'S LAGOON — JIM TOOMEY



CURTIS — RAY BILLINGSLEY



JUMBLE CROSSWORDS by David L. Hoyt



12-16-22

CLUE (ACROSS)	ANSWER
1. Tossed	NOHRWT
5. Bet money	RGEWA
6. Characteristic	RITAT
7. ____ Sea	BLAICT

CLUE (DOWN)	ANSWER
1. Cheap, tasteless	DYRATW
2. Boat race	EGTAART
3. Arrest ____	NRARWTA
4. Country, rural	RTIUCS

How to play: Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

BONUS

CLUE: This New York City street is 13 miles long.

ANSWERS: 1A-Thrown 5A-Wager 6A-Trait 7A-Baltic 1D-Tawdry 2D-Regatta 3D-Warrant 4D-Rustic B: Broadway

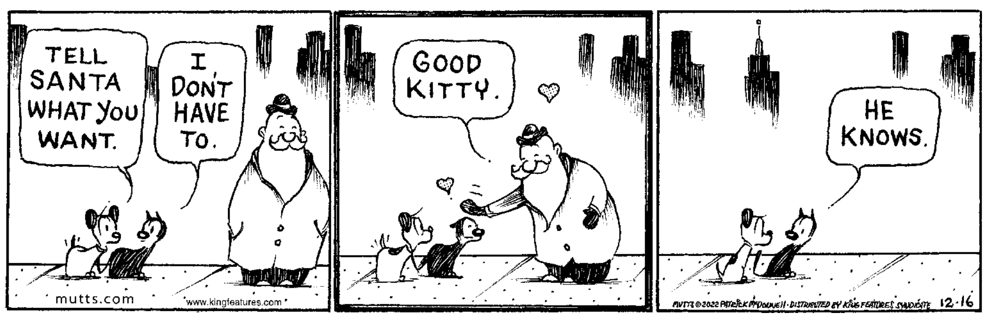
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BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY! — TIM RICKARD



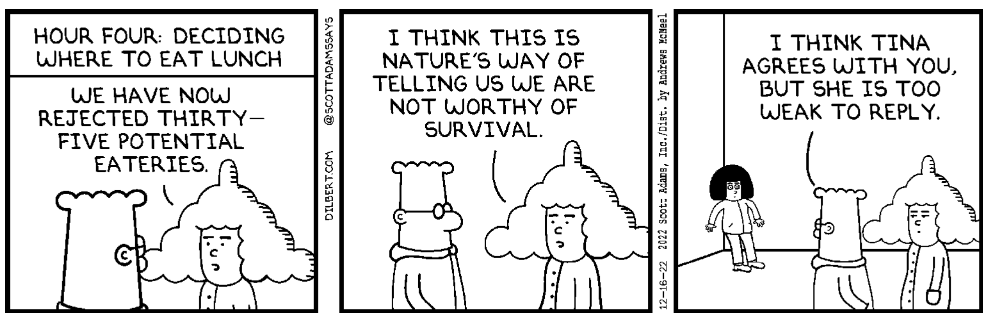
MUTTS PATRICK McDONNELL



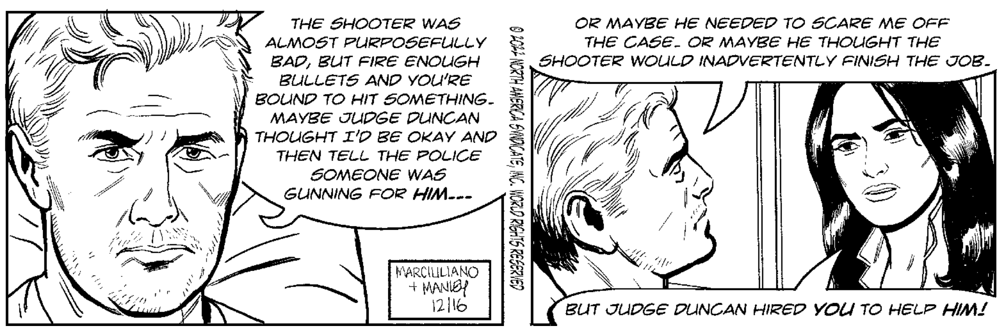
ZITS JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN



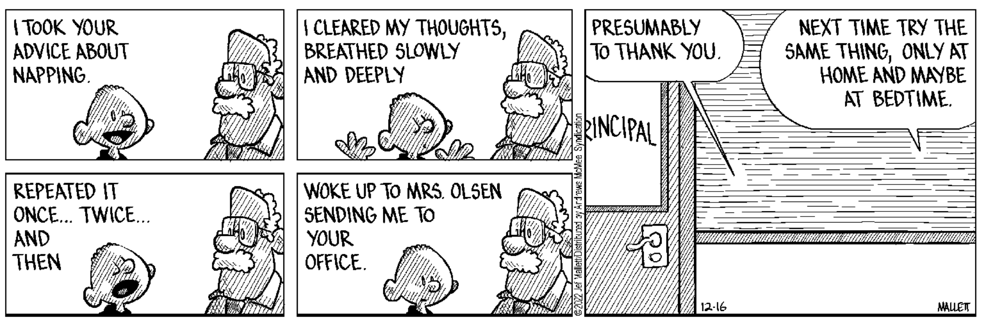
DILBERT SCOTT ADAMS



JUDGE PARKER FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & MIKE MANLEY



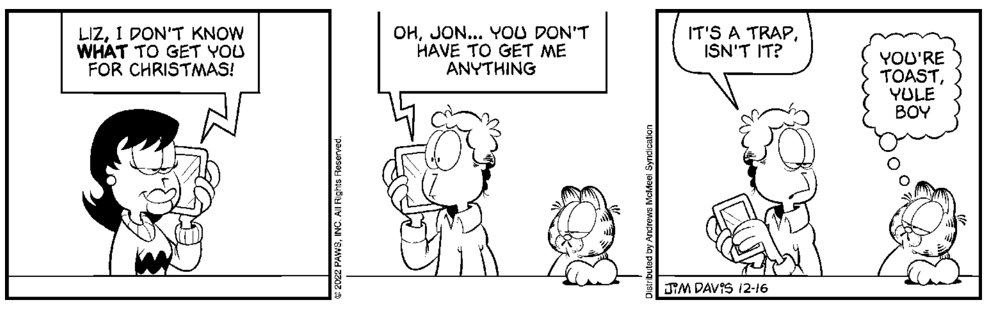
FRAZZ JEF MALLETT



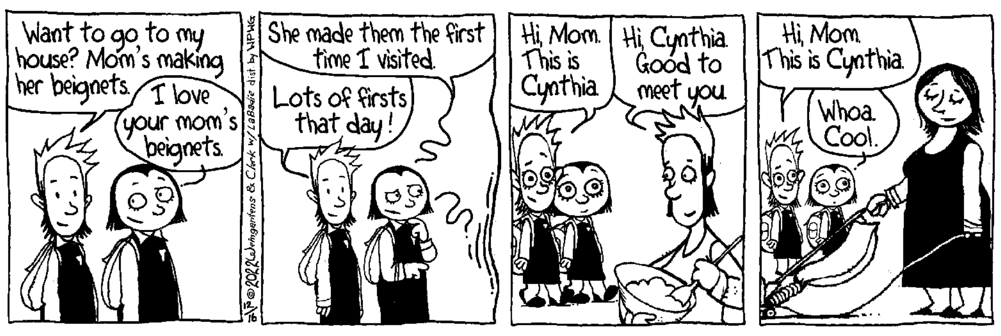
CANDORVILLE DARRIN BELL



GARFIELD JIM DAVIS



BARNEY AND CLYDE WEINGARTENS & CLARK



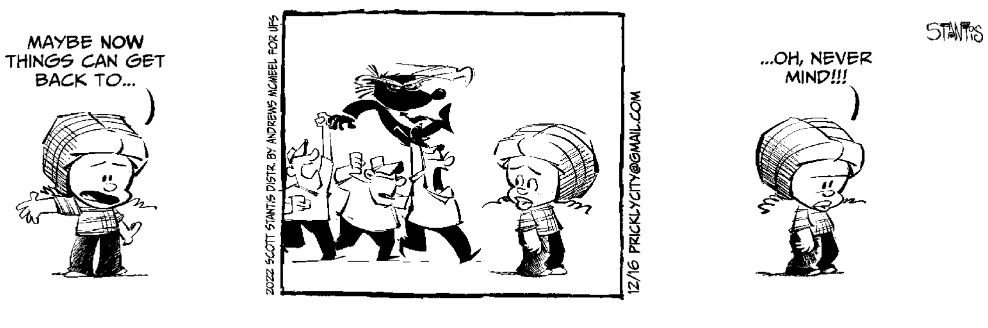
DUSTIN STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



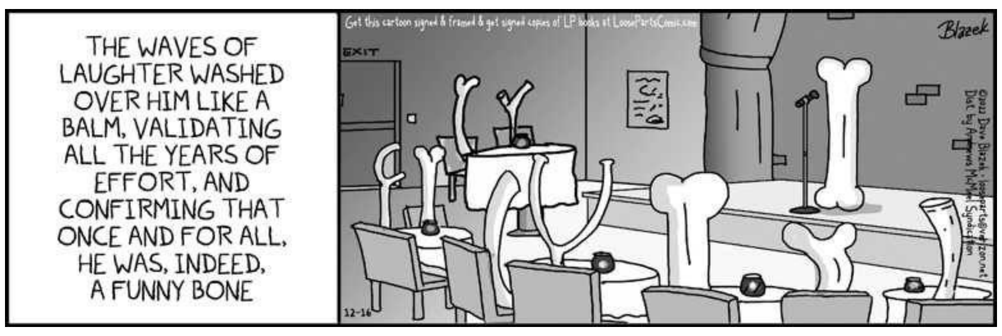
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN STAN LEE & ALEX SAVIUK



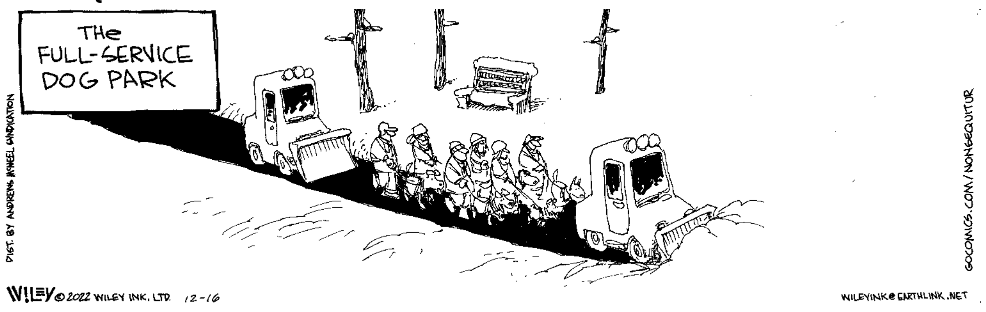
PRICKLY CITY SCOTT STANTIS



LOOSE PARTS DAVE BLAZEK



NON SEQUITUR WILEY



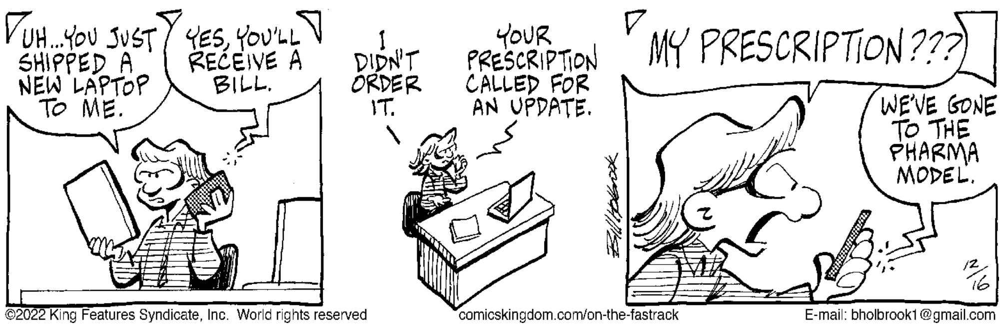
BABY BLUES RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



BIG NATE LINCOLN PEIRCE



ON THE FASTRACK BILL HOLBROOK

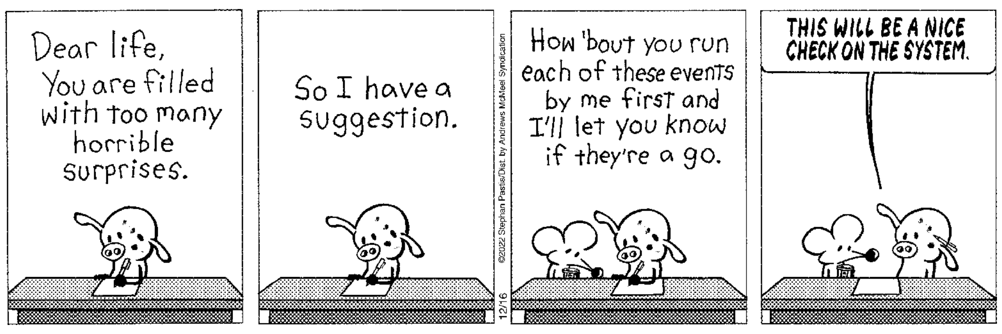


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BEETLE BAILEY MORT, BRIAN & GREG WALKER



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE STEPHAN PASTIS



HOROSCOPE

BIRTHDAY | DECEMBER 16

Honesty and integrity are important to you. You are charming, articulate and extremely observant. You are skillful with words. This year is a time of reflection and learning. Welcome more solitude and explore anything that increases your self-awareness. You also might teach someone this year.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. today. After that, the Moon moves from Virgo into Libra.

ARIES
(MARCH 21-APRIL 19).
This morning you have strong feelings about how to improve your health or make improvements in your job. Or you might want to explore ways to take better care of your pet.

TAURUS
(APRIL 20-MAY 20).
Your dealings with your kids might be emotional this morning. Likewise, romantic partners might have a heated discussion. Later in the day, your focus swings to work and getting things done.

GEMINI
(MAY 21-JUNE 20).
Family discussions will be quite passionate this morning. In all likelihood, you might see ways to improve things. You also might see new uses for something that you own. Later in the day, you want to play!

CANCER
(JUNE 21-JULY 22).
You have strong opinions this morning. Recently, you've been working hard to pull things together, and this morning, you won't hesitate to express your views. Later in the day, you will love an opportunity to kick back and relax at home.

LEO
(JULY 23-AUG. 22).
This morning you're thinking about how to get the best use out of your available resources. You might see new applications for something you already own. Later in the day, you're busy!

VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEPT. 22).
This morning you have a chance to steer things in your direction. You have specific wants and goals, and you will go after them. Later in the afternoon, financial issues are your focus.

LIBRA
(SEPT. 23-OCT. 22).
Don't get your belly in a rash about something this morning, because whatever it is, it will blow over very quickly. Later in the afternoon, when the Moon moves into your sign, you're in charge.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 23-NOV. 21).
A heated discussion with a friend or a member of a group might take place this morning. You might see better ways to spend money on a project or a shared goal. Later in the day, you'll be happy to pull in your reins and seek some privacy.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21).
Tread carefully this morning, especially when talking to parents, bosses or VIPs. Because you have strong feelings about something, you could alienate someone in power or set them against you. (Don't do this.) This afternoon is friendly!

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 19).
Discussions about politics, religion or racial issues will grab your attention this morning. You also might have strong desires about travel plans. Later in the day, you are high-viz, which means people notice you more than usual.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 20-FEB. 18).
Check out financial matters today so you know what's going on. Later in the day, travel and a chance to escape somewhere will be your top priority. Do something different; you want adventure and a change of scenery! Go someplace you've never been before.

PISCES
(FEB. 19-MARCH 20).
Be accommodating to others this morning. You have to go along to get along. Later in the day, financial discussions about inheritances and shared property might take place. Make sure you know what others expect of you and what you can expect from them.

— Georgia Nicols

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PREVIOUS SUDOKU SOLUTION

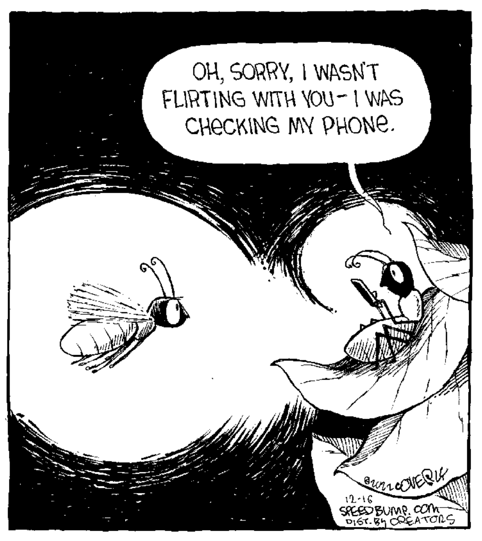
8	1	3	6	9	2	4	5	7
6	5	4	3	1	7	8	9	2
2	7	9	5	8	4	1	3	6
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3	2	6	8	4	9	7	1	5
9	4	5	1	7	6	2	8	3
7	3	8	4	6	1	5	2	9
5	9	2	7	3	8	6	4	1
4	6	1	9	2	5	3	7	8

PREVIOUS SCRABBLEGRAMS SOLUTION

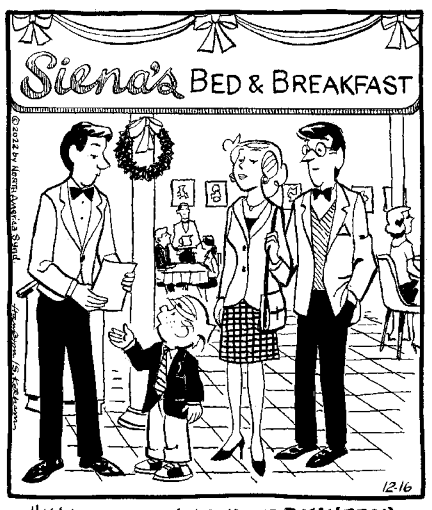
C3	A1	L1	L1	O1	W4		RACK 1 = 11
B3	E1	L1	I1	E1	V4	E1	RACK 2 = 62
S1	T1	R1	A1	T1	U1	M3	RACK 3 = 77
W4	E1	A1	L1	T1	H4	Y4	RACK 4 = 70

PAR SCORE 155-165 TOTAL 220

SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



DENNIS THE MENACE H. KETCHAM



"WHAT ABOUT LUNCH AND DINNER?"

FAMILY CIRCUS BIL KEANE



"That police car has its Christmas lights on."

REPLY ALL LITE DONNA A. LEWIS



TELEVISION

TV HIGHLIGHTS



PRIME VIDEO

Nanny (Prime Video) An African woman's dreams of bringing her young son to the United States by nannying are threatened by a violent presence.

Young Rock (NBC at 8:30) The Rock reflects on his past gift-giving fails as he gets into the holiday spirit.

Dateline (NBC at 9) Police are led on an international manhunt to track down a suspect in the death of a pediatric dentist.

PREMIERES

Cook at All Costs (Netflix) Home cooks bid on ingredients to create winning dishes in hopes of winning the cash that they have left in their banks.

Dance Monsters (Netflix) Amateur dancers disguised as CGI avatars compete to win $250,000 and the chance to show off their skills.

The Recruit (Netflix) A young lawyer, Noah Centineo, at the CIA careens into the world of international espionage after a former asset threatens to expose secrets unless they clear her name.

SPECIALS

The 90th Annual Hollywood Christmas Parade (CW at 8) This taping of the annual Hollywood Christmas parade features celebrities, bands, balloons, floats and performers.

The Greatest @Home Videos: Holiday Special (CBS at 9) A collection of videos featuring holiday cheer and creativity.

MOVIES

A Christmas to Treasure (Lifetime at 8) Things heat up between former best friends Austin and Everett during a holiday treasure hunt.

Holiday Heritage (Hallmark at 8) After returning to her hometown to make amends with her family, a woman with the help of her ex encourages her family to heal and celebrate Christmas and Kwanzaa.

If These Walls Could Sing (Disney Plus) Mary McCartney guides audiences through 90 years in the Abbey Road Studios, exploring the diversity, longevity and ingenuity of the studio.

The Volcano: Rescue From Whakaari (Netflix) This documentary provides footage and personal accounts of the tragedy that occurred in 2019 when 47 tourists and guides were trapped by a volcanic eruption off the coast of New Zealand.

RETURNING

Craft in America (PBS at 9) Season 14.

LATE NIGHT

Tonight Show/Fallon (NBC at 11:34) James Corden, Jenna Ortega, Mike Finney.

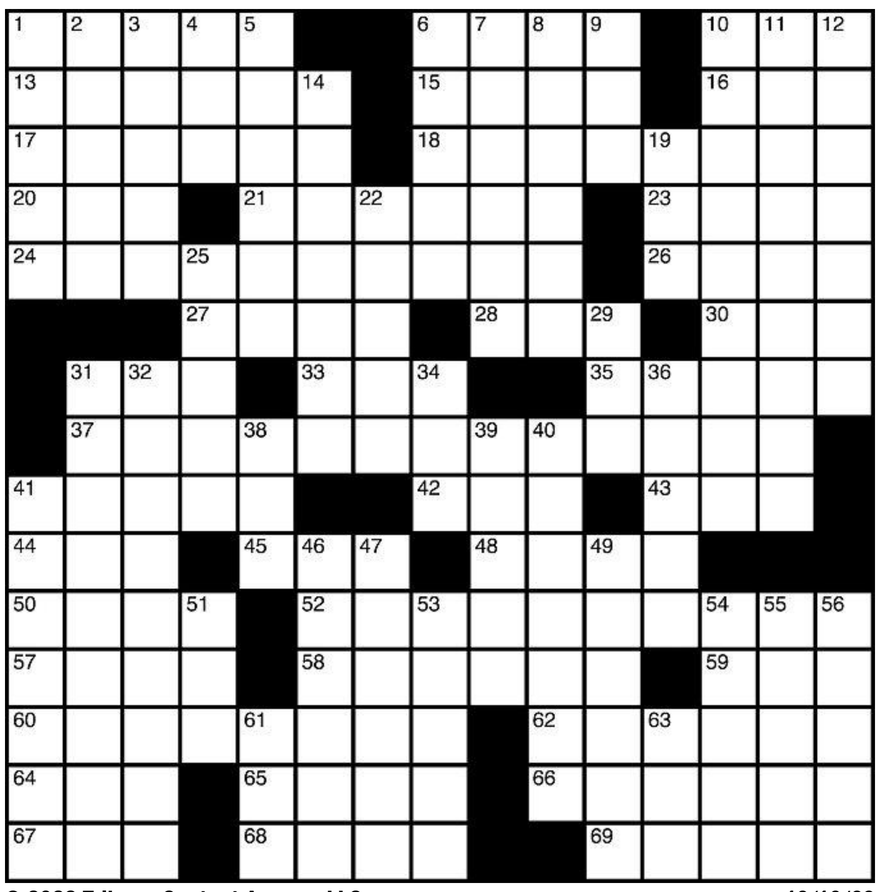
— Olivia McCormack

12/16/22	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
BROADCAST CHANNELS										
4.1 WRC (NBC)	♦ **NBC News**	♦ **Hollywood**	♦ **Lopez vs**	♦ **Rock**	♦ **Dateline NBC**				**News**	♦ **J. Fallon**
4.2 WRC (IND)	Bones		Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Roseanne	Roseanne	The Nanny	The Nanny
5.1 WTTG (Fox)	**Fox 5**	♦ **TMZ**	♦ **WWE Friday Night SmackDown** (Live)				**Fox 5 News at 10**		**News**	**The Final**
7.1 WJLA (ABC)	♦ **Wheel**	♦ **J'pardy!**	♦ Shark Tank		(9:01) ♦ **20/20**				**News**	♦ J. Kimmel
9.1 WUSA (CBS)	**Open Mic**	♦ **ET**	♦ Reindeer in Here		♦ **The Greatest**		♦ Blue Bloods		**9 News**	♦ **Colbert**
14.1 WFDC (UNI)	♦ La rosa de Guadalupe		♦ **Vencer la ausencia**		♦ **Mi camino es amarte**		♦ **La madrastra**		Noticias	♦ **Noticiero**
20.1 WDCA (MNTV)	♦ Family Feud	♦ Family Feud	**Fox 5 News On the Plus**		♦ Family Feud	♦ Family Feud	Big Bang	Big Bang	♦ Chicago P.D.	
22.1 WMPT (PBS)	**State**	Rubenstein	Traces		Artworks		♦ **Craft in America**		♦ **Wash**	Start Up
26.1 WETA (PBS)	♦ **PBS NewsHour**		**Wash**	Rubenstein	♦ **Craft in America**		♦ **Craft in America**		**Amanpour-Co**	
32.1 WHUT (PBS)	DW News	School Great	Great Performances			Bee Gees: One Night Only			Food as Medicine	
50.1 WDCW (CW)	Neighbor	Neighbor	♦ **The 90th Annual Hollywood Christmas Parade**				**DC News Now**		♦ Seinfeld	♦ Seinfeld
66.1 WPXW (ION)	Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0	
CABLE CHANNELS										
A&E	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		(10:01) The First 48		(11:04) The First 48	
AMC	(6:45) Movie: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation				Movie: Four Christmases ★★ (2008)				Movie: The Princess Bride	
Animal Planet	North Woods Law		North Woods Law		North Woods Law		North Woods Law		North Woods Law	
BET	House/Payne	House/Payne	House/Payne	House/Payne	Movie: The First Noelle (2022)					House/Payne
Bravo	Movie: The Housewives of The North Pole (2021)				Movie: The Housewives of The North Pole (2021)				Movie: Easy A ★★★	
Cartoon Network	Clarence	We Bare	Regular Show	Regular Show	Futurama	Futurama	American	American	American	Rick, Morty
CNN	**Erin Burnett OutFront**		**Anderson Cooper 360**		**Anderson Cooper 360**		**Being...**		**CNN Tonight** (Live)	
Comedy Central	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Movie: A Clüsterfünke Christmas (2021)				The Office	The Office
Discovery	**Gold Rush: Pay Dirt**		**Gold Rush**						**Gold Rush: F. Dodge**	
Disney	The Villains	Olaf's	Movie: Frozen II ★★★ (2019)			Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	The Villains	Bunk'd
E!	Monster	Movie: Just Friends ★★ (2005)				Movie: The Proposal ★★ (2009)				
ESPN	**NBA**	**NBA Basketball**: Golden State Warriors at Philadelphia 76ers (Live)					**NBA Basketball:** Nuggets at Lakers			
ESPN2	**College Football:** FCS Division I Championship						UFC Live	**NLL Lacrosse**		
Food Network	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	**Diners**	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive
Fox News	**Jesse Watters**		**Tucker Carlson Tonight**		**Hannity** (Live)		**The Ingraham Angle**		**Gutfeld!**	
Freeform	Santa Clause 3		The Santa	(8:45) The Santa Clauses		Landing	Movie: Jingle All the Way 2 (2014)			
FX	Iron Man	Movie: Iron Man 2 ★★ (2010)					Movie: Iron Man 3 ★★★ (2013)			
Hallmark	Christmas List		Movie: Holiday Heritage (2022)				(10:01) Movie: A Kismet Christmas (2022)			
Hallmark M&M	A Godwink Christmas: Me		Movie: Our Italian Christmas Memories (2022)				Movie: The Holiday Stocking (2022)			
HBO	Branson	Movie: Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore ★★ (2022)					**We're Here**		**Diaries**	**Diaries**
HGTV	Dream Home	Dream Home	Dream Home	Dream Home	**Dream**	Dream Home	**Battle**	**Battle**	Dream Home	Dream Home
History	The UnXplained		The UnXplained		**The UnXplained**		**The Proof Is Out There:**		Bermuda Triangle: Into	
Lifetime	A Country Christmas		Movie: A Christmas to Treasure (2022)				(10:03) Movie: Merry Textmas (2022)			
MASN	2022 Perfect Game				**Orioles**	**Nationals**	2022 Perfect	McGee's Pro Football Plus		Bensinger
MSNBC	**The ReidOut** (Live)		**All In With Chris Hayes**		**Alex Wagner Tonight**		**The Last Word With**		**11th Hour**	
MTV	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	**Ridiculous**	**Ridiculous**	**Ridiculous**	**Ridiculous**	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
Nat'l Geographic	Vikings: The Rise and Fall		Vikings: The Rise and Fall		Vikings: The Rise and Fall		Vikings: The Rise and Fall		Vikings: The Rise and Fall	
NBC SportsNet WA	(6:00) 106.7 The Fan's Sports Junkies						Command	NHL Hockey: Stars at Capitals		
Nickelodeon	Movie: Snow Day (2022)			SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
NWSN	**On Balance**		**Cuomo**		**Dan Abrams Live** (Live)		**Banfield**		Cuomo	
PARMT	Two Men	Two Men	Movie: The Italian Job ★★★ (2003)					Movie: John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum		
Syfy	(5:30) Movie: Ghostbusters ★★ (2016)			Movie: Speed ★★★ (1994)					(11:05) Movie: Krampus	
TBS	Sheldon	Sheldon	Movie: Ocean's Eleven ★★★ (2001)					(10:22) Movie: Ocean's Twelve ★★★		
TCM	(6:30) Bride of Frankenstein		Movie: The Red Shoes ★★★★ (1948)					Movie: Gaslight ★★ (1940)		
TLC	90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever		**90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?**				**90 Day**	**Love in P.**	**90 Days**	**90 Days**
TNT	(6:00) Movie: Happy Gilmore		Movie: Step Brothers ★★ (2008)				**All Elite Wrestling**		**Ghost Adventures**	
Travel	Destination Fear		Destination Fear		**Destination Fear**		**Urban Legend**		Urban Legend	
TruTV	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Movie: Ghost Rider ★★ (2007)			
TV Land	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King
TV One	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Fatal Attraction		**Fatal Attraction: Last**		Sins of the City		Fatal Attraction	
USA Network	Movie: Despicable Me ★★★ (2010)				Movie: Despicable Me 2 ★★★ (2013)				Movie: Minions ★★ (2015)	
VH1	Grown Ups	Movie: Grown Ups 2 ★ (2013)					Movie: The Waterboy ★ (1998)			
WNC8	DraftKings	ScalpMED	Govt. Matters	7News at 6	SportsTalk	**ABC News**	**News**	Govt. Matters	**The National Desk**	

LEGEND: Bold indicates new or live programs ♦ High Definition Movie Ratings (from TMS) ★★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Fair ★ Poor No stars: not rated

LA TIMES CROSSWORD

By Matt Forest & Shannon Rapp



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ACROSS

1 Absolute
6 Short helper?
10 IG or FB post
13 Breastfed
15 Fruit cocktail fruit
16 Reddit tell-all session, for short
17 Facial hair, casually
18 *Haymaker's agenda?
20 West Coast sch. with more than 100 NCAA championships
21 Crispy Crunchies! fries maker
23 Karate level
24 *Major uptick in swimsuit sales?
26 Footprint maker
27 Fancy foot work
28 Vinaigrette ingredient
30 Lousy grade
31 __-mo
33 Scrape (by)
35 DoorDash category
37 *"The whole team has earned happy hour!"
41 Arya's sister on "Game of Thrones"
42 Feel icky
43 Part of FWIW
44 Some 45s, briefly
45 "Tsk!"
48 High time
50 Switch on the radio?
52 *Hungry hawk's polite request?
57 Narrate
58 Hall of Fame pitcher Fingers
59 Baby goat
60 Untangle carefully, and a phonetic hint for the answers to the starred clues?
62 Catch sight of
64 Copier size: Abbr.
65 D.C. paper
66 Almond flour's lack
67 Language suffix
68 Small songbird
69 Finals, e.g.

DOWN

1 Get off a mailing list, informally
2 Ethnic group in Rwanda
3 Album unit
4 Corner key on a PC
5 Brush up on a fading skill, perhaps
6 Challenging sci. class featuring evolutionary studies
7 Jet ski brand
8 Charcuterie choice
9 Three, in Rome
10 Regimen based on the eating habits of early humans
11 "You have my full attention!"
12 Water flask
14 Puts down
19 "Call the Midwife" airer
22 Transport with hill-assist mode
25 Discontinued music players
29 Course component of 6-Down
31 Where some day traders trade?
32 Scattered light effect in a photo
34 Hurler's stat
36 Pont Neuf's river
38 "Mangia!"
39 Old 45, perhaps
40 Leaving unceremoniously?
41 "Grey's Anatomy" setting
46 Ruckus
47 Traveling ensemble
49 Estadio shout
51 Org. with Earthquakes and Fire
53 "Rocketman" icon John
54 Japanese breed
55 Biting remark?
56 Happy places
61 "Ick"
63 Formal duds

THURSDAY'S LA TIMES SOLUTION

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CAN YOU BELIEVE PEOPLE THINK WE'RE ALIKE?

NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

An older sister resents her younger sibling for dodging their parents' care



Carolyn Hax

Hi Carolyn: I moved to the D.C. area a year ago after a really nasty breakup and a canceled wedding. I was heartbroken and homeless after he kicked me out. My sister convinced me to move into the basement of her townhouse and share expenses with her. Though she is married, she spends every weekend at her boyfriend's. Her husband knows, but they can't afford to get divorced.

So, I get a job, and spend every weekend alone in her townhouse, which is filthy and in disrepair. I clean, fix things up and try to mend my broken — and lonely — heart. After two months, I can't stand it and move to a great apartment. She's mad because I had promised to stay six months and pay rent, but the basement was not helping my mental state and she was never there.

However, the real issue is our parents, who were and are horrible to us. They have dementia, and a crisis sent them to a nursing home in May. My sister refuses to lift a finger. I drove to the Midwest three times to empty and sell their house, and I'm currently battling with insurance companies and their finances. When I tried to tell her what I was doing and needed help with, she blocked me.

I am so angry with her and my parents. Do I just cut her out completely and not update her? I'm in a great relationship now, but I need help with the mountain of paperwork and I'm terribly resentful.

— Tired of Being the Responsible Big Sister

Tired of Being the Responsible Big Sister: So it's okay for you to opt out of something you agreed to do, but it's not okay for her to opt out of something she never agreed to do?

I realize elder care and the decisions around it are heavy and complicated the way rent will never be. I also realize that a kid who does the time makes it easier, like it or not, for the others to skate.

But there is a baseline unfairness to the way you've framed these two points of friction with your sister, and it matters regardless of the points themselves:

When you have an emotional reason to put yourself first, you give yourself and your motives a pass — to wit, "the basement was not helping my mental state."

But when your sister has an emotional reason to put herself first — those parents "who were and are horrible to us," on top of the awful broke limbo of her home life — she's selfish and irresponsible and "refuses to lift a finger."

There is an important conversation waiting to be had about what you and your sister owe (and don't owe) your parents and (more important) each other — because there are different, legitimate ways for younger generations to handle significant needs in the older generation. They include everything from agreeing to collective action to leaving it to individual conscience. The latter can be especially apt when parents were abusive, as it appears your parents were.

But you can't have this conversation productively if you go into it assuming your motives are the only pure ones — especially just after you broke a promise to your sister with significant financial consequences for her.

What you can do is choose to view your sister's motives in the best possible light, too — the exact same grace you give yourself. Emotionally speaking, it's the wave of a wand. You're doing your imperfect best; she's doing her imperfect best. Meeting there — and not just when one of you needs the other for something — is your best chance to figure this out.

Write to Carolyn Hax at *tellme@washpost.com*. Get her column delivered to your inbox each morning at *wapo.st/gethax*.

Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at *washingtonpost.com/live-chats*.

The Washington Post
SPORTS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022 M2 D

COLLEGES
The NCAA names Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, whose term expires next month, its next president. D2

PRO FOOTBALL
Ravens quarterback Tyler Huntley is out of concussion protocols and cleared to start Saturday at Cleveland. D3

BASEBALL
The Yankees bolster their rotation by landing free agent lefty Carlos Rodón on a six-year, $162 million deal. D6

For FIFA, Qatar has sad echoes of '78 Cup

Tournament in Argentina was another example of sportswashing at its worst

BY FREDERIC J. FROMMER

The 2022 World Cup, nearing its conclusion after four weeks of thrilling soccer and off-field controversies, has a familiar place in the history of the sport's biggest showcase. The human rights concerns, drumbeat of criticism and resulting defiance from government and sports officials carry distinct echoes of FIFA's past.

The second World Cup was hosted in 1934 by the fascist government of Italian leader Benito Mussolini. FIFA staged the 2018 World Cup in Vladimir Putin's Russia. But most striking, perhaps, was the 1978 tournament, staged in Argentina at the height of its dirty war, in which the military dictatorship tortured, killed and disappeared thousands of political opponents.

That's not an exact parallel

SEE FIFA ON D4

WORLD CUP FINAL
Argentina vs. France
Sunday, 10 a.m., Fox



JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

Stars goaltender Jake Oettinger denies the Capitals' Alex Ovechkin in the first period. Ovechkin's four-game goal streak ended, and he remains one shy of Gordie Howe.

History must wait

Caps' winning streak ends at five as Ovechkin remains in pursuit of his next landmark goal

BY SAMANTHA PELL

STARS 2, CAPITALS 1

All eyes were on Alex Ovechkin on Thursday night at Capital One Arena with the Washington Capitals' captain just one goal from tying Gordie Howe for No. 2 on the NHL's all-time goals list. The arena was giddy, the excitement palpable.

The Dallas Stars wanted no part of it.

The visitors opened the third period with a pair of goals in the first 127 seconds and held No. 8 in check, leaving with a 2-1 victory that snapped the Capitals' five-game winning streak. Ovechkin, coming off a hat trick Tuesday in Chicago that pushed him to 800 career goals, was held without a goal for the first time in five games.

Forward T.J. Oshie knows Ovechkin's time will come but was quick to keep the focus on team goals after the loss.

"We're trying to win games here," he said. "Ovi's going to do it, and we're all going to be the first ones that congratulate him and be super, super proud of him. But we're also in a little bit of a hole here. So we'll take care of his business, and as a team we got to focus on getting more wins."

Ovechkin set up the Capitals' only goal, sending a slick feed to Conor Sheary to give Washington a 1-0 lead with 10:37 remaining in the second period. But that was the only time the Capitals beat Stars goalie Jake Oettinger (45 saves).

Capitals netminder Charlie Lindgren took a shutout into the final period but lost it just 48 seconds after the puck dropped when Jamie Benn beat him on a rebound on the power play. Barely a minute later, Colin Miller's point shot deflected off Lars Eller's back and ricocheted into the net.

"It [stinks] because you're kind of shifting into the shot and then it goes the other way," Lindgren said of the deflection. "It's extremely frustrating. Unfortunately, just got to put it behind us and move on."

Dallas (18-8-5) held on from there to grow its lead atop the Central Division. The Capitals (15-13-4) made a late push, but Oettinger held firm — with some help from the post when Dylan Strome had an open net in the final minutes. Also, Marcus Johansson couldn't corral the puck on a last-second chance in front.

"I thought we still battled back, and after the year we've had, it would have been easy to get down a goal there and go away. But we kept working, and we were right there till the very end. Just ran out

SEE CAPITALS ON D5

Maple Leafs at Capitals | Tomorrow, 7 p.m., NBC Sports Washington

Big-money QBs aren't paying off this season



Jerry Brewer

This has been a cursed season for top-earning NFL quarterbacks. In particular, it has been disastrous for the ones rewarded with mega contract extensions within the past year.

The litany of despair amounts to a preposterous coincidence. Never again will so many teams experience such severe consequences immediately after rewarding indispensable standout talent at the most important position in football. The collision sport makes every contract risky, but quarterbacks get paid so well because the good ones are essential, reliable and well protected by the rules of the game. Stability at the position is usually priceless.

But right now, it just looks costly.

After back-to-back MVP seasons, Aaron Rodgers became the first NFL player to make $50 million per season in March. But the Green Bay Packers are

SEE BREWER ON D3

Prime-time flex can't be just a blip on the screen



Barry Svrluga

This is without question rarefied air for the Washington Commanders. Television executives, who know everything about the viewing habits of red-blooded, football-thirsty Americans, decided those red-blooded, football-thirsty Americans would tune out a game involving Bill Belichick's post-dynasty New England Patriots going up against one of his proteges and would prefer some Taylor Heinicke vs. Daniel Jones.

Revel in it while you can, Washington.

"We've worked to try to become relevant," Commanders Coach Ron Rivera said.

In a given December in the nation's capital, that can't be taken for granted. A 6-1-1 stretch transformed this weekend's home game against the New York Giants into "Sunday Night Football" — replacing the Patriots and the Las Vegas Raiders, coached by former New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels. It might not be beautiful football. It is must-see TV. After so many meaningless holiday seasons, that shouldn't be discounted.

SEE SVRLUGA ON D2



KATHERINE FREY/THE WASHINGTON POST

Big-hitting safety Darrick Forrest, top, showed off his coverage skills, picking off a pass against the Eagles in a November victory.

Secondary of disrupters is a Washington strength

BY NICKI JHABVALA

Giants at Commanders
Sunday, 8:20 p.m., NBC

Benjamin St-Juste caught the attention of the Washington Commanders at the 2021 Senior Bowl, where the Canadian showed his skills at cornerback and safety. That week, St-Juste quickly became a familiar name among NFL scouts and executives who coveted a defensive back with his size (6-foot-3, 200 pounds) and length (80-inch wingspan). For Washington General Manager Martin Mayhew, it was St-Juste's aggressiveness at the line and his physicality as a tackler, two traits Washington's defense has grown to prioritize.

The Commanders drafted St-Juste in the third round that year and, perhaps unknowingly at the time, found his running mate in the fifth. Darrick Forrest, a big-hitting safety and special teams ace out of Cincinnati, was dubbed a "culture" guy.

"One of the guys that I spoke to was Luke Fickell, his coach at Cincinnati," defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio said. "He talked about how [Forrest] was a program-changer. He was the right kind of guy. So the speed and the physicality that he brings and being the kind of character,

SEE COMMANDERS ON D2

Washington's youthful secondary has become a pillar of an emerging defense

COMMANDERS FROM D1

we thought at worst we're going to get a really good special teams player, and we hoped to develop him into more."

The Commanders got much more.

After trying rookie seasons for both players, St-Juste and Forrest have become starters and transformative players for a well-balanced defense that has become a strength of an emerging team making a playoff push entering Sunday night's crucial home game against the New York Giants. The line still stars for the defense, but the secondary has become just as disruptive and productive.

Better yet: It has become a foundational piece of the team, with both youth and versatility.

Kam Curl, a seventh-round safety turned do-it-all defender, is the prize of the group, but St-Juste and Forrest have formed a young core around veterans Kendall Fuller and Bobby McCain.

"Having them communicate and play the way they have, it's really helped us as a whole in terms of defensively," Coach Ron Rivera said. "They're in sync with the pass rush, and they seem to have a feel for how each other works. . . . It's important, also, having those young, fresh bodies out there because you know they're a little different — they're athletic, they're fast, they're twitchy, and they're more than willing."

Rivera has lauded the players' versatility, especially as they have compensated for injuries late in the season. With cornerbacks and safeties who can play almost interchangeably, the Commanders (7-5-1) have a luxury few teams can claim.

St-Juste spent the offseason preparing to play in the slot, but after filling in for William Jackson III at cornerback in Week 3, he impressed enough to warrant a longer stay. Jackson was later traded, and St-Juste took over on the boundary.

Curl nursed a thumb injury at the start of the season, so Forrest was tabbed to start in his place — and made his mark almost immediately with a forced fumble and game-sealing interception in the opener.

Forrest's knack for big hits and big plays prompted Washington to find more ways to get him on the field. The solution: Move McCain, a former cornerback turned safety, into the slot because of his ability to play the run; continue to use Curl as a do-it-all guy; and make Forrest the strong safety (and occasional free safety).



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Kam Curl, a seventh-round safety turned do-it-all defender, is emblematic of the Commanders' young and versatile secondary.

"I don't know what he ran in the 40," ESPN analyst and former Washington safety Matt Bowen said of Forrest, who ran a 4.6-second 40 at the combine. "I don't really care because I look at him on tape and he plays fast. There's a sense of urgency to his game, and that allows him to create range to the football with his feet or make plays down the field. . . . He has a lot of on-the-ball production, which you want at the safety position."

Washington plays the majority of its defensive snaps in nickel as most NFL defenses do nowadays, but the Commanders especially like their three-safety sets (and this year have played more dime, with six defensive backs) with Curl almost always on the field. Like Landon Collins last season, Curl has played more than 50 percent of his snaps near the line of scrimmage, up from 27 percent in 2021.

But classifying Curl as simply a drop-down safety would be an injustice; the third-year player has moved around to all three levels of the defense.

"A great player in terms of what he can do as a zone defender and as a man defender," Bowen said.

". . . He's listed at 6-2, 198, but he plays much bigger at the point of attack, which is something you have to have at the safety position to be able to get into the dirty areas of the field, in high-traffic areas with a lot of bodies around, to be able to take on lead blocks, get over the top of blocks, tackle in space and tackle at the point of attack. He can do things as a zone defender, as a second-level player or as a third-level player."

After years of struggling to limit big plays, get off the field on third downs and create takeaways, Washington is now third in the league in third-down defense and has amassed 12 takeaways since Week 7, the second most in the league in that span.

In Week 12, Fuller intercepted a pass in the fourth quarter that defensive tackle Daron Payne tipped at the line, ensuring Washington's victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

A week earlier, against Houston, Fuller recorded his first career pick-six to spoil the Texans' opening drive. In the fourth quarter, after Washington's line created pressure, St-Juste tipped a deep pass that Forrest intercepted to all but seal the win.

In the locker room afterward, Forrest celebrated with his running mate and said Fuller "set the tone."

This season, Washington's remade secondary has set the tone for possibly much more.

"When you take guys late in the draft, you're not projecting them to be starters," Del Rio said. "You're hoping you can develop them, have a role for them and then if they earn their way and develop, great.

"What I talk about is always working to develop and improve. I had a coach once describe it — it's like you're on a grease board and you got to keep trying to climb and you don't keep trying to climb, you're going to slide down. That's what it is. Those guys are working hard, and I'm really pleased with the way they're developing."

BARRY SVRLUGA

Any long-term sustainability for the Commanders will depend on the quarterback

SVRLUGA FROM D1

But the goal here can't be just a two-month stretch of relevance. The goal, both obvious and stated, must be to crank out December after December in which relevance is expected and the Commanders aren't an afterthought but an actual threat.

Is that what's happening? Does relevance in 2022 mean this roster and coaching staff will be back in playoff contention a year from now? And a year after that?

"You kind of look at every position," quarterback Taylor Heinicke said. "You're like, 'Man, we got dudes at every position.' "

Well, except quarterback. We'll get back to that.

There's some truth in what Heinicke's saying. The defensive line is obviously loaded with actual stars — Jonathan Allen and Daron Payne and Montez Sweat, with Chase Young (presumably) on his way back. The wide receiving core is led by Terry McLaurin, but it's possible Curtis Samuel is even more dynamic, and rookie Jahan Dotson is promising and developing. Kam Curl is already a beast at safety, and Benjamin St-Juste is having a breakout season as a cornerback. The offensive line is banged-up but resilient, making holes for bruising running back Brian Robinson Jr. Logan Thomas is a reliable tight end. Jamin Davis has overcome a lost rookie season and makes plays at linebacker.

That's dudes at every position.

"With what's been happening with our young players playing and contributing, that helps," Rivera said. "That kind of tells you that we're heading in the right direction, and with the right mix of veterans, and you do feel like you have the type of foundation that you can sustain. That's what we're hoping for. That's what we're trying to build."



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Commanders Coach Ron Rivera said of Sunday's game, "We've worked to try to become relevant."

In the last generation of Washington football, nothing sustainable has been built. There's no overstating that fact. Every coach who has come in here intended to do what Rivera says he's doing now. Intentions do not equal results.

Sustainable, in the NFL, should mean making repeated trips to the playoffs. That would indicate a core is in place and the right pieces are consistently filled in around it. That's not something with which modern Washington football fans are familiar.

The last time this franchise reached the playoffs in back-to-back years: 1990, 1991 and 1992, the twilight of the era in which it was a league powerhouse. There are 31 other franchises in the NFL. Only one, the Cleveland Browns, has gone longer without consecutive playoff appearances; its last run came from 1985 to 1989.

Think about that, and then add this: In the 29 seasons that have been completed since 1992, the Browns have the fewest playoff appearances — three. Washington has six, same as the Oakland/Las Vegas Raiders, the Arizona Cardinals and the Houston Texans — a team that didn't even exist until 2002.

Making annual postseason trips isn't easy. Indeed, only six franchises have made the playoffs in more than half of the seasons since 1992 — Green Bay and New England (22 times), Pittsburgh (19), Philadelphia (16) and Kansas City and Seattle (15 apiece). Sustainability is always a goal. It's just not often achievable. The franchises that get there are used to playing on "Sunday Night Football" in December. That's not Washington.

"This is probably the first time in my career where I've kind of been a part of a game like this at home," McLaurin said, "with so much riding on the game."

So enjoy it. But while you do, think about whether this run means something sustainable is being built. Would a playoff appearance to close the 2022 season mean bigger and better goals are attainable in 2023?

"The more the young players get to play the last couple of years, including this year as well, it's been very beneficial because that's where your core is going to come from," Rivera said. "Because as they develop and grow as a group together, you can add from that point on. And that's really kind of what we're hoping to do."

Identifiable pieces of that core: McLaurin and Allen are signed through the 2025 season, giving the Commanders leadership and production on both sides of the ball. There are upcoming contract decisions on Payne, Sweat and Young, but it's reasonable to believe that some combination of those players will make the defensive line a strength for the next several years.

Samuel has another year on his free agent deal. Davis, Curl, St-Juste, Dotson and Robinson are among those on rookie contracts. Roster-wise, there's a lot to like.

And yet, somehow, it feels . . . fragile. Sustainability should have a sturdiness about it, an underlying tone that what already has been accomplished is just the beginning, that more is possible. With the Commanders, the possibilities don't feel, at the moment, limitless. They feel decidedly limited.

That's because, even with "dudes" at every position, they rank 28th in the league in yards per play (4.9). That's because they rank 26th in net yards per pass attempt. That's because they score on 30.7 percent of their offensive drives, better than just five teams. That's because, seemingly every week, they play a one-score game that could go either way.

So, then, quarterback. We know, by now, Heinicke's strengths — which are essentially resilience and inventiveness — and his limitations, and the list is long. We know Carson Wentz, even if he plays at some point over the final four weeks, isn't the long-term answer — and in this case, long term includes 2023.

There's a lot to admire about this run and this roster, and a prime-time game against a division rival in the season's final month gives Rivera a chance to show it all off. But the core, at the moment, does not include a quarterback, and the search for that player remains the biggest reason Washington, for generations, hasn't consistently been worthy of games like it will play Sunday — in prime time, for all the world to see.

DIGEST

COLLEGES

Mass. governor Baker will be NCAA president

Charlie Baker, whose second term as governor of Massachusetts ends next month, was selected Thursday to replace NCAA President **Mark Emmert** when his term ends March 1.

The selection of Baker, who played basketball at Harvard, by the NCAA Board of Governors gives the organization a president with political and business experience. But Baker, a Republican, is also the first NCAA leader who does not have a professional background in higher education or college sports.

The 66-year-old Baker has spent most of his career in Massachusetts state government and also worked for a decade in health-care administration.

Emmert announced in April that he would step down after 12 years in the job. A former University of Washington president and LSU chancellor, he was the second NCAA leader from the world of academia after **Myles Brand**, his predecessor. Emmert, who earned $2.99 million for the fiscal year that ended in 2021, will remain with the NCAA, helping with the transition, until June.

— Cindy Boren

The National Labor Relations Board will investigate an unfair labor practice complaint involving the rights of University of Southern California football and basketball players.

In February, the National College Players Association filed an unfair labor practice charge against USC, the Pac-12 Conference and the NCAA alleging misclassification of college players as "student-athletes" and other violations.

The NLRB's Region 21 in Los Angeles will look into the complaint that covers football and men's and women's basketball players at the private school.

At the request of the NLRB's Division of Advice, the players association agreed to withdraw its unfair labor practice charge against UCLA while vowing to continue its fight to gain employee status and rights for football and basketball players at public universities.

"We are working to make sure college athletes are treated fairly in both the education and business aspects of college sports," players association executive director **Ramogi Huma** said in a statement. . . .

Drew Brees will help with the coaching transition at Purdue, serving as an assistant coach for the Boilermakers as they prepare for and play in the Citrus Bowl on Jan. 2.

Brees, 43, who was hired as a countable assistant under NCAA guidelines, is permitted to work with student-athletes as well as participate in recruiting activities. The former Purdue star and 20-year NFL quarterback will help assist new head coach **Ryan Walters**. . . .

Bobby Petrino, known for his high-powered offenses, was hired as UNLV's new offensive coordinator.

Petrino, who went 18-15 over the past three seasons at Football Championship Series-level Missouri State, will be part of **Barry Odom**'s staff. Odom was hired Dec. 6 to replace **Marcus Arroyo**, who was fired after the Rebels went 5-7 this season.

Petrino took Louisville to eight bowl appearances over two stints and Arkansas to three bowls.

BASEBALL

Second baseman **Adam Frazier** and the Baltimore Orioles agreed to a one-year, $8 million contract.

Frazier hit .238 with three home runs and 42 RBI in 156 games last season for the Seattle Mariners and stole a career-high 11 bases. He hit a career-best .305 for Pittsburgh and San Diego in 2021. . . .

The Detroit Tigers bolstered their rotation by agreeing to a one-year contract with right-hander **Michael Lorenzen**. . . .

The Chicago Cubs added bullpen help, agreeing to a one-year, $2.8 million contract with veteran right-hander **Brad Boxberger.**

MISC.

Billie Moore, who coached the first U.S. Olympic women's basketball team to a silver medal at the 1976 Montreal Games, died at 79.

UCLA, where Moore was the women's head coach from 1977 to 1993, announced that she died of cancer.

Moore was the first coach in women's basketball history to lead teams from two schools to national championships. She is in both the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. . . .

TELEVISION AND RADIO

NBA

7:30 p.m.	**Golden State at Philadelphia** » ESPN
10 p.m.	**Denver at Los Angeles Lakers** » ESPN

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

11:30 a.m.	**Bahamas Bowl: Miami (Ohio) vs. UAB** » ESPN
3 p.m.	**Cure Bowl: Troy vs. Texas San Antonio** » ESPN
7 p.m.	**NCAA Division III, final: Mount Union vs. North Central (Ill.)** » ESPNU
7 p.m.	**FCS playoffs, semifinal: Incarnate Word at North Dakota State** » ESPN2

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

6:30 p.m.	**Xavier at Georgetown** » Fox Sports 1, WTEM (980 AM)
8 p.m.	**Green Bay at Stanford** » Pac-12 Network
8:30 p.m.	**Creighton at Marquette** » Fox Sports 1

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

7 p.m.	**Murray State at Kentucky** » SEC Network

GOLF

3 a.m. (Saturday)	**DP World Tour: Mauritius Open, third round** » Golf Channel

TENNIS

7 a.m.	**Mubadala Championship, men's quarterfinals and women's exhibition** » Tennis Channel

MEN'S PROFESSIONAL LACROSSE

10:30 p.m.	**NLL: Panther City Lacrosse Club at Las Vegas** » ESPN2

German tennis legend **Boris Becker** returned to Germany after serving eight months in prison in Britain, his lawyer said.

The three-time Wimbledon champion had been sentenced to 30 months in prison for illicitly transferring large amounts of money and hiding assets after he was declared bankrupt. . . .

Austria's **Vincent Kriechmayr** edged defending overall World Cup champion **Marco Odermatt** by 0.11 seconds on a shortened Saslong course in Selva Di Val Gardena, Italy, in a downhill race that was rescheduled from Beaver Creek in Colorado. . . .

Sami Valimaki of Finland took a two-shot lead at the Mauritius Open after setting a course record of 62. He shot a bogey-free 10 under par in the first round of the DP World Tour event.

— From news services and staff reports

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

With a veteran's poise, rookie Purdy propels San Francisco to NFC West title

49ERS 21, SEAHAWKS 13

BY TIM BOOTH

SEATTLE — Rookie Brock Purdy threw a pair of touchdown passes to George Kittle, and the San Francisco 49ers won their first NFC West title since 2019, beating the Seattle Seahawks, 21-13, on Thursday night.

Despite using their third starting quarterback this season, the 49ers (10-4) continued to show they might be the class of the NFC alongside Philadelphia. San Francisco won its seventh straight, using its stifling defense to frustrate Seattle into countless mistakes.

The 49ers got a handful of big plays from their rookie quarterback. Playing on the road for the first time in his career, Purdy connected on his first 11 pass attempts, including a 28-yard touchdown to Kittle in the first quarter when Purdy executed two fakes before hitting his wide open tight end.

Purdy and Kittle connected again early in the second half as Seattle's defense blew a coverage and left Kittle open for a 54-yard touchdown and a 21-3 San Francisco advantage. Purdy finished 17 for 26 for 217 yards, joining Aaron Rodgers as the only quarterbacks since at least 1950 to have a passer rating of at least 115 in each of their first two starts.

Kittle had four catches for 93 yards, and Christian McCaffrey rushed for 108 yards, including a one-yard touchdown run in the final minute of the first half following a Seattle turnover.

Seattle (7-7) lost for the fourth time in five games and its playoff hopes took another hit. Geno Smith threw for 238 yards and Seattle's first offensive touchdown this season against the 49ers but was under constant pressure.

Seattle pulled within one score late in the fourth quarter after Robbie Gould missed a 43-yard field goal and the Seahawks went 67 yards in 1:25. Smith hit Noah Fant on a 10-yard touchdown with 3:35 remaining. But Purdy converted a third and one with a scramble before the two-minute warning, and Jordan Mason sealed the victory with a 55-yard scamper with 1:02 remaining.

Smith was sacked three times and hit nine times. When he did have time to throw, open windows for his pass catchers were small. Seattle had one play longer than 20 yards.

And Seattle missed taking advantage of a 49ers mistake late in the first half.

Seattle scored its first offensive points in two games against the 49ers midway through the second quarter on Jason Myers's 38-yard field goal. Seattle's only points in the first matchup in Week 2 came on a blocked field goal returned for a touchdown.

But the Seahawks followed with a pair of critical mistakes. Quandre Diggs dropped a potential interception that would have given Seattle the ball on San Francisco's side of the field. And Travis Homer fumbled on a big hit by Dre Greenlaw at the Seattle 41 with 1:08 left in the second quarter. The fumble was returned 35 yards by Charvarius Ward, and two plays later, McCaffrey scored to give the 49ers a 14-3 lead.

The 49ers have allowed 17 points or fewer in every game of their winning streak.

— Associated Press

NFL NOTES

Huntley exits concussion protocols, will start at quarterback for the Ravens

FROM NEWS SERVICES

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Tyler Huntley is on track to play in Saturday's game against the Cleveland Browns after practicing for the third consecutive day Thursday.

Huntley, who took over for the injured Lamar Jackson, started the week in the NFL's concussion protocols after being knocked out of Sunday's win over the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was estimated to be limited in Tuesday's walk-through, participated fully in Wednesday's practice and participated in Thursday's walk-through. Huntley and Coach John Harbaugh confirmed that he exited concussion protocols after taking several tests following Wednesday's practice.

Though Harbaugh did not say who will start at quarterback against the Browns, Huntley made it clear he's expecting to play, adding that he never felt concussion symptoms. "I don't think I had a concussion," he told reporters Thursday. "With the protocols, they were doing their job, making sure I was safe. Clearly, I'm safe enough to play this week."

He said a spotter called from above to place him in the concussion protocols in Pittsburgh.

Huntley said offensive coordinator Greg Roman talked with him about being more judicious when he runs into contact. "It definitely is hard," he said. "Because it's like a [half]-second decision you have to make. I'm not thinking of that; I'm trying to get the first down."

Jackson remains sidelined by a knee injury he suffered in a Week 13 win over the Denver Broncos. He missed his sixth straight practice Thursday and was ruled out for Saturday's game. In his absence, the Ravens (9-4) could elevate not only undrafted rookie Anthony Brown, who replaced Huntley in the second half Sunday, but also veteran Brett Hundley from the practice squad.

Ravens left tackle Ronnie Stanley, outside linebacker Jason Pierre-Paul and cornerback Marcus Peters also sat out Thursday to rest ahead of Saturday's game. Right tackle Morgan Moses, right guard Kevin Zeitler and punter Jordan Stout are questionable to play, but they were estimated to be full participants in Thursday's walk-through.

— Baltimore Sun

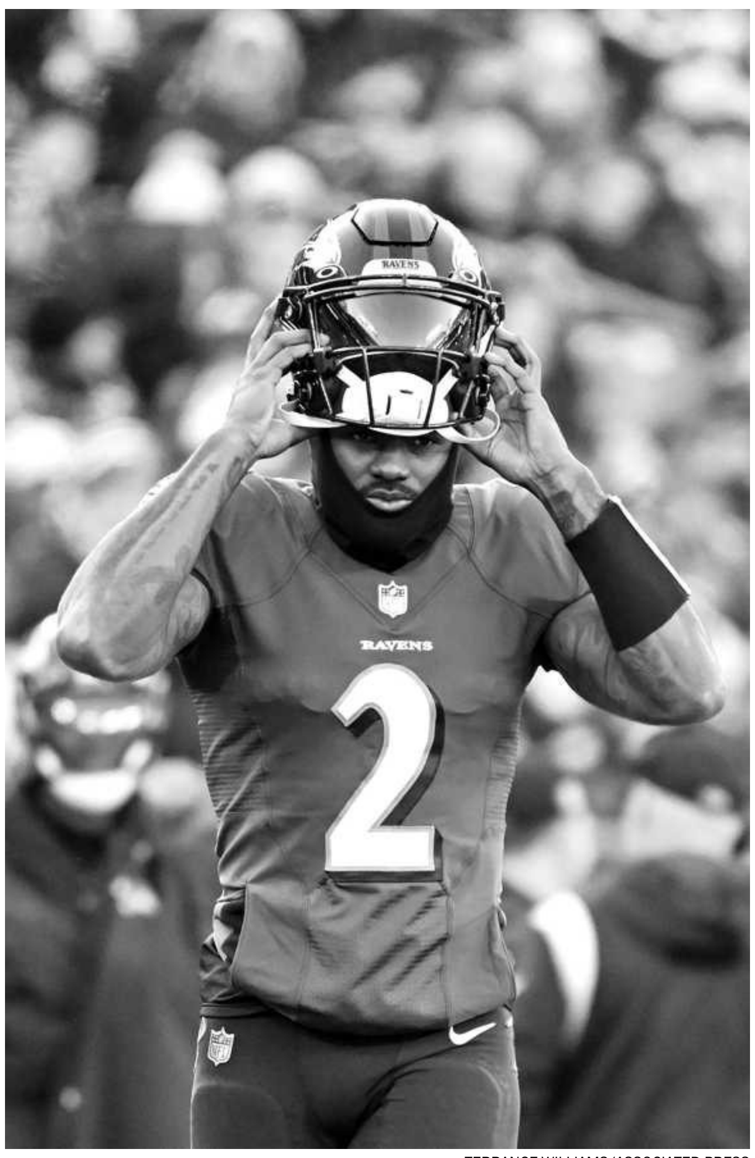
• **JETS:** There's still no doubt in Mike White's mind that he will start at quarterback for New York on Sunday.

"Uh, no," White said Thursday. "None at all."

Sore ribs and all.

"Like I said on Monday, I'm preparing as such," he added. "And until something changes, we'll cross that bridge when we get there."

White has been limited at practice this week after he was twice knocked from the Jets' loss to the Bills at Buffalo on Sunday by big hits. He finished the game but left the stadium in an ambulance to be examined at a hospital. White was cleared, flew back with the team and has been doing what he can in practice.



TERRANCE WILLIAMS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

With Lamar Jackson sidelined by a knee injury, Tyler Huntley, above, will start when Baltimore travels to Cleveland on Saturday.

"I feel good," White said. "Just kind of general soreness from playing football and being hit, but I feel good."

• **COWBOYS:** Dallas linebacker Micah Parsons didn't wait until next week to get people talking about the Philadelphia rivalry again.

The Cowboys' young star knows Dallas faces Jacksonville and Trevor Lawrence on Sunday before the Eagles and Jalen Hurts on Christmas Eve.

Problem is, when Parsons appeared with Von Miller on "The Voncast," the Cowboys' sacks leader asked rhetorically, "Is it Hurts or the team?" regarding Philadelphia's NFL-leading 12-1 record.

Miller said, "I think it's a little bit of both, man," to which Parsons replied, "It's system and team!"

"I'm not trying to make no enemies," Parsons told Miller. "I just love the game so much that when things are off, I just can't hold it in. I've almost got to say something."

Facing reporters Thursday, a day after the exchange with Miller garnered national attention, Parsons didn't try to wiggle out.

"I'm pretty sure they hate me," Parsons said in response to the first question, about backlash from Eagles fans.

The most notable reply from the Philadelphia locker room made it clear the chatter was a week early.

The stakes when the NFC East-leading Eagles visit the Cowboys (10-3) will depend on the outcomes this weekend. Philadelphia won the first meeting at home, 26-17, in Week 6.

"I'm going to worry about the Chicago Bears this week, mate, worry about this game," left tackle Jordan Mailata said. "Micah should worry about his game this week, too. We've got the Chicago Bears, not the Chicago Micah Parsons."

• **BRONCOS:** Randy Gregory's knee injury has taken a little longer than expected to heal.

To the point that, at this stage, it would be perfectly understandable if the Denver pass rusher elected to shut things down for the season.

After all, he hasn't played in more than two months and the Broncos (3-10) have fallen out of postseason contention.

Direct question: Why not shut it down?

"I've shut it down enough," explained Gregory, who's hoping to be activated off injured reserve and play Sunday against Arizona (4-9). "I've missed a lot of time. I want to help where I can. I understand the landscape, the situation we're in as a unit, but it's important to go out there and end the season on a good note."

Gregory was brought in in the offseason on a five-year, $70 million deal to do exactly what he had been doing — disrupt things in the backfield. He had two sacks, added seven quarterback hits and forced a pair of fumbles before hurting his knee at Las Vegas on Oct. 2.

— Associated Press

JERRY BREWER

Big contracts for QBs are looking cursed and costly

BREWER FROM D1

5-8 and devoid of reliable veteran wide receivers to support their 39-year-old quarterback, who is posting the worst passer rating and fewest passing yards per game of his illustrious career as a starter.

Russell Wilson has been the flop of the year in Denver, and he suffered a scary head injury Sunday. Kyler Murray, who had a homework clause inserted and later removed from his lucrative deal, exited the field Monday night on a cart and with a towel draped over his head after a noncontact knee injury that ended his season and probably will cost him most, if not all, of 2023. Deshaun Watson, the recipient of a novel $230 million fully guaranteed contract, debuted with the Cleveland Browns two weeks ago after an 11-game suspension, and he's rusty in addition to being forever tainted after more than two dozen women filed lawsuits against him alleging sexual misconduct or assault.

Derek Carr signed a three-year, $121.5 million extension in April and saw the Las Vegas Raiders make a major trade to get his college buddy, Davante Adams, from Green Bay. Nevertheless, the Raiders stink, and Carr has regressed under Coach Josh McDaniels. In the afterglow of a Super Bowl triumph, the Los Angeles Rams made Matthew Stafford a $40 million-per-year quarterback, too. This season, the Rams are 4-9, and Stafford is out for the remainder of the year because of a spinal cord contusion, a second serious injury to go with his ongoing elbow problems.

Add it all up, and there are woes involving six of the NFL's nine quarterbacks who have contracts that average at least $40 million per season. With four weeks left in the 2022 season, the only $40 million men projected to make the playoffs are Patrick Mahomes, Josh Allen and Dak Prescott.

With the ailing or struggling quarterbacks, each situation is vastly different. There is no consistent theme beyond bad luck. But in a league in which players and owners constantly haggle over the appropriate amount of guaranteed money to embed within these bloated deals, the next wave of contract negotiations may be more complicated than usual.

Ultimately, teams don't let gifted signal callers walk during their prime years. But talks for a massive deal often turn into contentious staring contests. For owners, the Watson guaranteed contract is an irritant because every elite young quarterback who doesn't come with legal trouble will want a better deal. That's the general trend. As the salary cap rises, the market keeps resetting itself every time the next great player is due for a new contract. But fellow owners will keep sneering at Cleveland's Dee Haslam, and teams will argue the Watson pact is a reckless outlier.

In October, the NFL Players Association filed a system arbitration proceeding and accused the league and its teams of colluding to prevent franchises from offering fully guaranteed contracts. The upcoming offseason will play out as an arbitrator resolves that case.

This disastrous quarterback season should stand mostly in isolation, but it won't. It's inevitable some organizations will attempt to weaponize it and prevent these salaries from skyrocketing every offseason.

Lamar Jackson tops the list of players who must fight against that perception. The 25-year-old 2019 MVP is nearing the end of his fifth season with the Baltimore Ravens, and if he can't agree to a contract shortly after this season, the Ravens could put a franchise tag on him. Acting as his own agent, he has been unable to consummate a deal. While an exclusive tag for a quarterback projects to be worth more than $45 million next season, Jackson wants a nine-figure guarantee. But during this prolonged negotiation, leg injuries have decreased his availability the past two seasons.

A year ago, Jackson missed five games, most of them because of a bone bruise in his ankle that sidelined him amid a six-game losing streak to end the season. Jackson is out because of a knee injury, but he should return in a few weeks. When you take a step back and evaluate Jackson over 61 career starts, he has been sufficiently durable and too productive to overreact to a couple of injuries. He's going to get paid because he may prove to be the greatest dual-threat quarterback the NFL has ever seen.

But two recent leg injuries are something the Ravens must consider. A new five-year contract would keep Jackson in Baltimore through his age-30 season. How long can he continue to be the quarterback who has averaged 63.4 rushing yards per game? Would trying to maintain that standard diminish him physically? Is he a passer who would cut back heavily on running and consistently beat defenses with his arm?

Murray has a different style and, listed at 5-foot-10, he is the league's shortest starting quarterback. Still, watching his knee give out made you think about Jackson and other young, mobile athletes under center. They're always more at risk. There is no easy way to protect them. You have to empower them to play their special way. But the most brutal part of this game isn't simply the injury risk. It's also the devaluing of players willing to give their bodies to the team.

In the football business, practicality can be diabolical. The 2022 onslaught of quarterback misfortune will make it more difficult for Jackson to get a fair deal. After that, Joe Burrow may have to put on boxing gloves, despite the remarkable start to his career, if he wants the frugal Cincinnati Bengals to reset the quarterback market. That negotiation could influence deals for 2020 draft classmates Justin Herbert and Tua Tagovailoa. If Tom Brady continues to play, it will be fascinating to see whether there will be a true bidding war for a seven-championship legend who turns 46 before next season. It's especially intriguing after a year in which the struggles of Brady and Rodgers have reminded teams that old quarterbacks, even great ones, need proper cushioning around them to thrive. Tampa Bay and Green Bay expected their future Hall of Famers to conceal too many problems, and the results have been ugly.

There's a lot of ugliness going around this season. It's probably an aberration, but for some of those teams, the problem could get worse. In the NFL, these blips make future bargaining all the more contentious.



JACK DEMPSEY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russell Wilson, who suffered a scary head injury Sunday, has struggled since he signed a five-year, $245 million extension with Denver.

NOTES

Cold virus has back-to-back hopeful France sweating Sunday's title match

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A cold virus is running through the French squad ahead of the World Cup final against Argentina on Sunday, affecting at least three players.

Coach Didier Deschamps said two players with symptoms — defender Dayot Upamecano and midfielder Adrien Rabiot — were isolated this week. They didn't play in France's 2-0 semifinal win over Morocco on Wednesday.

Rabiot wasn't in the lineup. Upamecano was a substitute but didn't play. Deschamps said Upamecano was recovering from "three difficult days" since he played in Saturday's quarterfinal against England.

"However, we have four days until the next game, so he should be available for Sunday," the coach said, adding backup winger Kingsley Coman also had felt feverish. He insisted he expects all of his players to be healthy for the final.

"It's flu season now, and in that sense, we have to be careful," he said. "And also, the players have put in a huge shift and their immune system might be a little run down."

Deschamps noted the "use of air conditioners may also affect" how the virus is circulating, even with France training outdoors.

• PORTUGAL: Coach Fernando Santos quit, the Portuguese soccer federation announced Thursday, after eight years in the job and five days after Portugal's exit from the World Cup in the quarterfinals.



MARTIN MEISSNER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fernando Santos, who led Portugal to its first major trophy in 2016, departed after his team lost in a World Cup quarterfinal last week.



The 68-year-old reached an amicable agreement with the federation to leave two years before his contract ends, a statement said. The federation named no replacement for Santos and said it was starting its search.

Santos led Portugal to the 2016 European Championship title — the country's first major international trophy — and the inaugural UEFA Nations League title in 2019. But Portugal left Qatar after a 1-0 loss to Morocco in a quarterfinal Saturday.

The Portuguese squad had an enviable depth of talent and won its first two games in the group stage. In the round of 16, it made a splash by thrashing Switzerland, 6-1. But Portugal's early departure from Qatar was widely regarded as an underachievement.

Whoever takes over faces a tricky question of how to manage Cristiano Ronaldo's role on the team. The 37-year-old superstar was dropped from the starting lineup for the Switzerland game, when a new generation of Portuguese players emphatically made a mark. Against Morocco, he again started on the bench as the team faltered.

That caused friction between Santos and his star player, who left the field in tears after the defeat. In an Instagram post, Ronaldo said his dream of winning the World Cup had "ended," but he didn't say he would retire from international duty.

• MOROCCO: The idea that Morocco could co-host the 2030 World Cup with Spain and Portugal seemed a bit crazy when it was floated four years ago. It doesn't seem so crazy now.

Morocco gained status in FIFA and credibility with fans by eliminating Spain and Portugal to become the first African team to advance to a World Cup semifinal before falling to France.

There are longer-term prospects for the national team with a solid foundation seemingly in place. There is strong recruitment from the Moroccan diaspora in Europe coupled with homegrown players nurtured at a world-class training center near Rabat.

Though there is no proposal yet to create the first multicontinent World Cup hosting bid, the head of Morocco's soccer federation still believes in the concept.

"We wanted this organization to be shared between the African continent and the European continent," Fouzi Lekjaa said, "in order to show the world that the relationship between Africa and Europe is not only the relationship of illegal immigration and the fight against it. Rather, it is a relationship in which civilizations can meet and cultures meet."

That Morocco and Spain are so geographically close is the core appeal of any joint bid. There also is the support of King Mohammed VI, who asked for a renewed World Cup bid when Morocco lost the 2026 tournament hosting vote to the heavily favored U.S.-Canada-Mexico plan.

What has changed since 2018?

Lekjaa, a government minister in charge of the state budget, has more influence at FIFA as an African-elected delegate on its ruling council since joining last year. He is clearly in good graces with FIFA President Gianni Infantino, given that holding a government job was once a barrier for candidates to avoid conflicts of interest.

"Now we seek to be a key player in the international dimension within FIFA," Lekjaa said.

For FIFA's biggest event, Argentina and Qatar are sad and troubling bookends

FIFA FROM D1

with Qatar, which has been criticized for its treatment of migrant workers and its intolerance of homosexuality. But from the goals of the host country to the rhetoric of FIFA officials to the misgivings raised by participants and observers, this World Cup has been less historical outlier than exemplar.

"There's definitely a real revisiting now of various World Cups because it shows you a little bit of FIFA's pattern," said Clemente Lisi, author of "The FIFA World Cup: A History of the Planet's Biggest Sporting Event."

"And I fear that going forward, it won't change. If you look at the countries that are interested in the World Cup in the future, we're talking about Saudi Arabia, China. You know, these are places that FIFA may be able to do business with, but in terms of human rights records, we're not talking about stellar countries here."

Human rights groups say that there have been thousands of unexplained deaths among the migrant workers who helped ready Qatar for the World Cup as the tiny nation built stadiums and infrastructure. Qatar has disputed the figures, but in an interview British journalist Piers Morgan posted online last month, a top Qatari official pegged the number of migrant worker deaths at between 400 and 500. That was much higher than previous government figures, although officials later attempted to backtrack from the comments. The country's criminalization of homosexuality also has generated protest and outrage.

Like Argentina in the '70s, Qatar has chalked up outside condemnations to bias, with Qatar's foreign minister calling criticism of the nation's human rights record "very arrogant and very racist." FIFA President Gianni Infantino has denounced European critics for "moral lesson-giving," which he labeled "hypocrisy."

Those comments would have sounded familiar at the World Cup in 1978, when Argentina's president, Gen. Jorge Rafael Videla, accused opponents of harboring "anti-Argentine" sentiments.

FIFA never considered changing course. The FIFA president at the time, João Havelange, was a Brazilian, and he took satisfaction in playing the World Cup in South America. On the eve of the tournament, Havelange praised the host nation, telling local reporters: "I am among those that most depended on the hard work that your country undertook, and I haven't been disappointed. It fills me with pride, first from knowing that Argentina responded to the challenge and second because I am also South American. We have achieved everything we proposed."

Soccer, with 'torture' nearby

In the year and a half leading up to the 1978 World Cup, the United States was moving to a



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Argentina hosted and won the 1978 World Cup as its military dictatorship tortured and killed citizens.

new approach on human rights. The 1976 coup that had overthrown the democratically elected government of Argentina took place during the administration of President Gerald Ford, and Henry Kissinger, Ford's secretary of state, advised the junta to act quickly before opposition to human rights violations grew in the United States. He told Argentina's foreign minister, "If there are things that have to be done, you should do them quickly," a declassified memo shows.

But President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat who took office in January 1977, made human rights a priority and took a more critical approach to the anti-communist regimes the United States was then supporting during the Cold War. In June of that year, his secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, told the Organization of American States that the United States would tie aid to human rights in Latin America. Argentina's government already was bristling at "interference" from outsiders, The Washington Post reported at the time, and arguing that harsh measures were required to combat leftist guerrillas.

Vance rejected that ends-justify-the-means calculation. "If terrorism and violence in the name of dissent cannot be condoned, neither can violence that is officially sanctioned. Such action perverts the legal system that alone assures the survival of our traditions," he said.

After the coup, there were calls to boycott the World Cup, including by a group of French journalists and intellectuals who declared in a manifesto, "We should not play soccer amid the concentration camps and torture chambers." Amnesty International supported the group, warning that the real Argentina of prisons, torture, and repression of political opposition would be masked at the World Cup. But the efforts were unsuccessful, and as the soccer tournament approached, the Argentine military dictatorship took a page from the 1936 Nazi Olympics, using the international sports competition to burnish its image on the world stage.

"Holding the tournament will show the world that Argentina is a trustworthy country, capable of carrying out huge projects," boasted Adm. Emilio Massera, a member of the ruling junta and one of the leaders of the coup. "And it will help push back against the criticism that is raining on us from around the world."

Yet less than a mile away from the Buenos Aires stadium that staged several games, including the final, Massera was running the notorious Navy Mechanics School. At this clandestine prison, security forces were torturing and killing political opponents — some of whom could hear fans cheering from the stadium. An estimated 5,000 people were sent to the facility.

"This event, which draws worldwide attention to the host country every four years, is regarded by Argentina's military Government as a major test of public relations," the New York Times wrote in a preview story. "It is concerned about its reputation as a battleground of extremist violence and brutal repression and is hopeful that the country will be found to be more normal and a friendlier place than it has appeared abroad." The military junta spent millions on public relations efforts in Europe and the United States, the Times reported.

Opponents of the regime sought to take advantage of the international attention on the tournament by highlighting the government's practice of disappearing dissenters, but these efforts sometimes ended with tragic results. With the World Cup six months away and attention on the country increasing, on Human Rights Day in December 1977 a group of Argentine mothers known as "Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo" took out a newspaper ad listing the names of their missing children.

One of the founding mothers of the human rights group, Azucena Villaflor, was kidnapped by armed men that very night and taken to the Navy Mechanics School. Her remains weren't identified until nearly 30 years later, after her body washed up on a beach and was buried in an unmarked grave.

A made-for-TV event

The first match of the World Cup took place June 1, 1978 — a late-autumn brisk sunny day in the Southern Hemisphere — at Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires. Fans wore overcoats or wool jackets.

Thousands of police circled the stadium, and helicopters hovered overhead, but the regime tried to put on a peaceful face, releasing hundreds of white doves. "We hope these games will contribute to strengthen peace, which we desire for all the world and among all men," Videla said to a mix of clapping and whistles of disapproval from the upper tier of the stadium, the Times reported. The first match ended in a 0-0 draw between West Germany and Poland.

Lisi said that the regime's main concern was making the tournament look good on TV.

"At the time, fans didn't travel with the ease they do now," he said. "So it really was a made-for-TV event. Basically it was a fresh coat of paint on everything. They spruced up their stadiums. Because they knew it would serve as a distraction but it could also be an effective propaganda tool to solidify their power."

And Argentina's success in the World Cup helped unify the country. "This must be the happiest city in the world," The Post reported after Argentina beat Peru, 6-0, to make the final. "Imagine carnival in Rio, Mardi Gras in New Orleans or the end of World War II in New York City and you have an idea what Buenos Aires is like. . . . Argentines are wild about soccer. They love it more than their husbands, their wives, their children — or so it seems."

Kissinger, by then a private citizen, attended the World Cup as a guest of the Argentine regime, but he was causing headaches for the Carter administration. In a declassified cable from June 27, 1978, the U.S. ambassador to Argentina at the time summarized Kissinger's meeting with Videla, the Argentine president. The ambassador wrote that he was concerned that "Kissinger's repeated high praise for Argentina's action in wiping out terrorism and his stress on the importance of Argentina may have gone to some considerable extent to his hosts' heads."

'Beginning of this trouble'

The tournament couldn't have gone better for the ruling junta. Argentina went on to win the championship, defeating the Netherlands, 3-1, in the final. Videla took a victory lap not just for the title but in securing a propaganda coup as well, thanking FIFA for allowing his nation to host the World Cup and giving "the Argentine people a chance to show what it is capable of." He called the World Cup "the symbol of peace."

During the final, a few prisoners at the Navy Mechanics School got the chance to watch the game on a small black-and-white TV. After Argentina won, the guards took some of the prisoners on a drive to observe the mass celebrations.

"One car stopped at a local pizzeria and the prisoners, many who hadn't been outside the compound's walls for years, stood there, pale, trembling and terrified as patrons jumped on tables and sang triumphant soccer songs," wrote Ken Bensinger, author of "Red Card," a book about the global FIFA corruption scandal. "Nobody seemed to notice when they were put back in the cars and taken back to their torture chambers."

Some Argentine players later expressed regret for allowing themselves to be exploited by the regime.

"There is no doubt that we were used politically," one player, Ricky Villa, said years later.

Argentina wasn't shy about using the victory to strut on the international stage — and to push back on criticism from the United States on its human rights record. In August 1978, about six weeks after the final, the State Department's top human rights official condemned the government for using "systematic torture" and "summary executions." But the military dictatorship, newly emboldened by its victory, called the American official's statement "false and tendentious, an offense to the Argentine people and harmful to ties between both states."

"In recent weeks, as Argentines bask in the glory of staging and winning the World Cup soccer championship in June, they have begun to strike back," The Post reported at the time. "There has clearly been a reawakening of the nationalistic spirit that has been a factor in Argentine political life since Juan Perón first came to power at the end of World War II. The new militancy has appeared at a time when U.S.-Argentine relations are at their lowest ebb in years."

Some Argentine media played the whataboutism card against the United States. That summer, an Argentine newsmagazine, SIETE DIAS, featured President Carter on the cover along with photos of Philadelphia police officers stomping on the heads of African Americans, as well as troops allegedly shooting at rioters in an unidentified American city. Inside, according to The Post story, the magazine ran a photo of soldiers aiming guns at a terrified Black woman, under a headline which read, "The United States today. Mr. President, is this the bulwark of human rights?"

In 2008, the 30th anniversary of Argentina's World Cup, Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo, the mothers group that had protested the disappearances under the regime, held a commemorative match at Estadio Monumental for players and survivors of the Dirty War.

"The 1978 World Cup was a gold brooch for repression, a mundial that was made to wash the faces of the murderers in front of the world," said one of the organizers of the event, Mabel Gutiérrez.

Lisi, the author, described the 1978 and 2022 World Cups as bookends.

"I think '78 is the beginning of this trouble FIFA gets itself in, and this is the culmination of it now," he said. "FIFA wants to clean up its act, they want to be less corrupt, they want to be more transparent, but I think as long as they're awarding World Cups to countries like this, it's not going to help them at all."

Frederic J. Frommer, a writer and sports historian, is the author of several books, including "You Gotta Have Heart: Washington Baseball from Walter Johnson to the 2019 World Series Champion Nationals."

NHL ROUNDUP

Letang scores first for Pittsburgh since his stroke

PENGUINS 4, PANTHERS 2

Associated Press

Pittsburgh defenseman Kris Letang scored in his third game back since he had a stroke, and the Penguins beat the Florida Panthers, 4-2, on Thursday night in Sunrise, Fla.

Letang had the stroke Nov. 28, returned to practice 10 days later and got back in the lineup Saturday against Buffalo. In the second period against Florida, Letang scored a shorthanded goal off a pass from Bryan Rust to tie it at 1.

"He has worked hard to get back, especially this quick," Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby said. "That was a big goal in the game. A shorthanded goal is big, but for him, what he has gone through, it is fun to see him back out there doing his thing."

Jake Guentzel scored twice and Evgeni Malkin added a power-play goal for the Penguins. Malkin, who has battled knee injuries, was helped off the ice after his goal, but Coach Mike Sullivan said afterward he did not think it was serious.

The Penguins won for the seventh consecutive time and are 12-1-1 in their past 14 games.

Ryan Lomberg and Sam Reinhart scored for Florida.

• **RANGERS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 1:** Jimmy Vesey had two goals, Igor Shesterkin made 22 saves, and New York beat visiting Toronto for its fifth straight win.



LYNNE SLADKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pittsburgh's Evgeni Malkin was helped off the ice by Kris Letang, right, and teammates after hurting his knee in the third period.

Vesey snapped a tie with 4:27 left in the second period. He added an empty-netter with 1:13 remaining for his fifth of the season.

Filip Chytil also scored for New York, and Vincent Trocheck had two assists.

Toronto lost in regulation for the first time since Nov. 11. It had gone 12-0-3 in its previous 15 games.

• **FLYERS 2, DEVILS 1:** Carter Hart matched his career high with 48 saves and Travis Konecny scored the tiebreaking goal on a breakaway with 8:14 to play as Philadelphia extended New Jersey's season-high skid to four games with the win in Newark.

Scott Laughton also scored as the Flyers snapped a four-game winless streak (0-2-2) and beat the Devils for the second time in three meetings.

Jack Hughes scored for the Devils and Vitek Vanecek had 22 saves as New Jersey fell to 0-3-1 in its past four.

Hart was the main reason the Devils lost. He not only stopped all but one shot, but at least a dozen were top-quality chances, including a chance in close by Jesper Bratt in the waning seconds.

• **KINGS 3, BRUINS 2 (SO):** Adrian Kempe scored twice in the third period to rally Los Angeles from a two-goal deficit, and Trevor Moore scored in the seventh round of the shootout for the Kings.

It was just the second loss at home for the Bruins all season.

Pheonix Copley stopped 33 shots in regulation and overtime and another five in the shootout for the Kings, who had lost two in a row and 10 of their previous 15 games.

Taylor Hall and Brad Marchand scored in the second period to give Boston the lead, and Linus Ullmark made 28 saves for Boston.

• **LIGHTNING 4, BLUE JACKETS 1:** Brayden Point extended his goal streak to five games, backup Brian Elliott made 24 saves in his seventh straight win, and Tampa Bay beat Columbus in Tampa.

Brandon Hagel had two goals for Tampa Bay, which finished a 5-1 homestand. Lightning captain Steven Stamkos had his 14-game point streak stopped.

• **HURRICANES 3, KRAKEN 2:** Carolina goalie Pyotr Kochetkov had his 151-minute scoreless streak end, but the Hurricanes held on after building an early lead to beat Seattle in Raleigh, N.C.

• **SABRES 4, AVALANCHE 2:** Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen made 40 saves, Tage Thompson had a goal and two assists, and Buffalo won in Denver.

• **DUCKS 5, CANADIENS 2:** In Montreal, John Klingberg scored twice and Anaheim won in regulation for only the second time this season.

• **GOLDEN KNIGHTS 4, BLACKHAWKS 1:** Reilly Smith scored twice and rookie Logan Thompson made 23 saves to lead Vegas in Chicago.

• **JETS 2, PREDATORS 1 (OT):** Kyle Connor scored 3:31 into overtime as Winnipeg beat visiting Nashville.



PHOTOS BY JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

Capitals goaltender Charlie Lindgren watches the game-winning goal by Colin Miller (not pictured) flutter into the net in the third period.

Caps' streak ends, and so does Ovechkin's goal surge

CAPITALS FROM D1

of time," Oshie said.

Ovechkin, who came into the contest with seven goals in his previous four games, had two shots in the first period and a couple of big one-timer attempts late in the second.

He also had a chance in front of the net with less than six minutes to go in the third. He finished with five shots on goal in 22:16 of ice time.

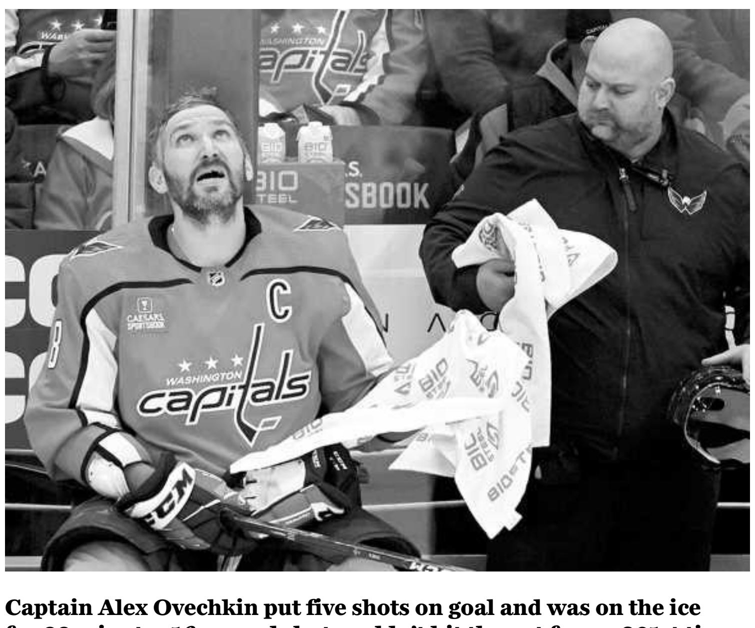
Ovechkin's next shot at matching — or passing — Howe comes Saturday at home against Toronto. Former Capitals netminder Ilya Samsonov is slated to be in net for the Maple Leafs. Samsonov is coming off consecutive shutouts.

Sheary's goal came off a nifty slap pass from Ovechkin in the left circle. It was Sheary's 10th goal and put him on pace for a career-high 25.

For the Stars, the idea of being on the wrong side of Ovechkin's milestone was plenty of motivation.

"Nobody wants to be part of history that way," Coach Peter DeBoer said. "And for sure [Oettinger] doesn't want to be that guy on the highlight reel 50 years from now being scored on in that situation."

Here's what else to know about the Capitals' loss:



Captain Alex Ovechkin put five shots on goal and was on the ice for 22 minutes 16 seconds but couldn't hit the net for an 801st time.

Milano out

Winger Sonny Milano took part in the morning skate but did not play.

The Capitals announced that he has a non-covid illness. Milano had been a catalyst on the second line with Evgeny Kuznetsov and Oshie over the past few games and has three goals and eight assists in 19 games.

Eller back

Eller returned to the lineup after he missed Tuesday's game in Chicago with an upper-body injury. The 33-year-old center left Tuesday's morning skate early and did not return. It was the first game Eller had missed this season.

Eller said Thursday morning that he was feeling good but did not detail his injury.

Ovechkin honored

Ovechkin was honored for reaching 800 goals with a lengthy video tribute in the first period. He waved to the home crowd as it gave him a standing ovation.

Right after the tribute, his 4-year-old son, Sergei, flipped the Ovechkin goal counter in one corner of the arena to 800 with some help from mascot Slapshot.

CAPITALS' NEXT THREE

vs. Toronto Maple Leafs

Tomorrow 7 NBCSW

vs. Detroit Red Wings

Monday 7 NBCSW

at Ottawa Senators

Thursday 7 NBCSW

Radio: WJFK (106.7 FM), WTEM (980 AM), WFED (1500 AM)

Stars 2, Capitals 1

DALLAS	0	0	2	— 2
WASHINGTON	0	1	0	— 1

SECOND PERIOD

Scoring: 1, Washington, Sheary 10 (Ovechkin, Strome), 9:23.

THIRD PERIOD

Scoring: 2, Dallas, Benn 12 (Hintz, Pavelski), 0:48 (pp). 3, Dallas, Miller 2 (Suter, Marchment), 2:07.

SHOTS ON GOAL

DALLAS	14	5	7	— 26
WASHINGTON	16	15	15	— 46

Power-play opportunities: Dallas 1 of 2; Washington 0 of 2. **Goalies:** Dallas, Oettinger 12-4-3 (46 shots-45 saves). Washington, Lindgren 7-4-2 (26-24). **A:** 18,573 (18,277). **T:** 2:31.

WEEKEND TV AND RADIO

Tomorrow

NFL

1 p.m.	**Indianapolis at Minnesota** » NFL Network
4:30 p.m.	**Baltimore at Cleveland** » NFL Network, WBAL (1090 AM), WBAL (101.5 FM), WIYY (97.9 FM)
8:15 p.m.	**Miami at Buffalo** » NFL Network, WTEM (980 AM)

NBA

4 p.m.	**Washington at Los Angeles Clippers** » NBC Sports Washington, WTEM (980 AM)
5 p.m.	**Miami vs. San Antonio** » NBA TV
9 p.m.	**New Orleans at Phoenix** » NBA TV

NHL

1 p.m.	**Columbus at Boston** » NHL Network
7 p.m.	**Toronto at Washington** » NBC Sports Washington, WJFK (106.7 FM)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

11 a.m.	**Fenway Bowl: Cincinnati vs. Louisville** » ESPN
Noon	**Celebration Bowl: Jackson State vs. N.C. Central** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
1 p.m.	**NCAA Division II playoffs, final: Colorado School of Mines vs. Ferris State (Mich.)** » ESPNU
2:30 p.m.	**Las Vegas Bowl: Florida vs. Oregon State** » ESPN
3:30 p.m.	**LA Bowl: Washington State vs. Fresno State** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
3:30 p.m.	**FCS playoffs, semifinal: Montana State at South Dakota State** » ESPN2
5:45 p.m.	**LendingTree Bowl: Rice vs. Southern Mississippi** » ESPN
7:30 p.m.	**New Mexico Bowl: SMU vs. BYU** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
9:15 p.m.	**Frisco Bowl: Boise State vs. North Texas** » ESPN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Noon	**St. Francis (Pa.) at Miami** » MASN
Noon	**Wake Forest at Rutgers** » Big Ten Network
Noon	**Indiana at Kansas** » ESPN2
12:30 p.m.	**Providence at Seton Hall** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)
1 p.m.	**Alabama vs. Gonzaga** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
1 p.m.	**North Florida at Pittsburgh** » ACC Network
2 p.m.	**Houston at Virginia** » ESPN2, WSBN (630 AM)
2 p.m.	**Florida A&M at Louisville** » MASN
2 p.m.	**DePaul at Northwestern** » Big Ten Network
3 p.m.	**Nicholls State at Mississippi State** » SEC Network
3 p.m.	**North Carolina vs. Ohio State** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
3 p.m.	**Cornell at Syracuse** » ACC Network
4 p.m.	**Grambling at Virginia Tech** » MASN, WJFK (106.7 FM)
4 p.m.	**Northern Illinois at VCU** » MASN2
4 p.m.	**Villanova at Saint Joseph's** » CBS Sports Network
4 p.m.	**Alabama A&M at Illinois** » Big Ten Network
5 p.m.	**Temple at Mississippi** » SEC Network
5:15 p.m.	**UCLA vs. Kentucky** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
6 p.m.	**Utah at BYU** » CBS Sports Network
6:15 p.m.	**Davidson at Purdue** » Big Ten Network
7 p.m.	**Connecticut at Butler** » Fox Sports 1
7 p.m.	**Winthrop at LSU** » SEC Network
7 p.m.	**Texas A&M at Memphis** » ESPNU
8 p.m.	**Wyoming vs. Dayton** » CBS Sports Network
8 p.m.	**Portland at Oregon** » Pac-12 Network
8:30 p.m.	**Southeast Missouri State at Iowa** » Big Ten Network
9 p.m.	**Oklahoma State at Wichita State** » ESPNU
10 p.m.	**Idaho State at Washington** » Pac-12 Network
10:30 p.m.	**Tennessee at Arizona** » ESPN2
10:30 p.m.	**North Carolina State vs. Vanderbilt** » CBS Sports Network

GOLF

2 p.m.	**PGA Tour Champions: PNC Championship Pro-Am, first round** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
3 a.m. (Sunday)	**DP World Tour: Mauritius Open, final round** » Golf Channel

SOCCER

7:30 a.m.	**Scottish Premiership: Celtic at Aberdeen** » CBS Sports Network
10 a.m.	**World Cup, third place: Morocco vs. Croatia** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)

TENNIS

6 a.m.	**Mubadala Championship, men's semifinals** » Tennis Channel

WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

8 p.m.	**NCAA tournament, final: Texas vs. Pittsburgh/Louisville** » ESPN2

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

4 p.m.	**Chaminade-Madonna (Fla.) at Bishop Gorman (Nev.)** » ESPNU

Sunday

NFL

1 p.m.	**Philadelphia at Chicago** » WTTG (Ch. 5)
1 p.m.	**Dallas at Jacksonville** » WBFF (Ch. 45)
1 p.m.	**Pittsburgh at Carolina** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
4:25 p.m.	**Cincinnati at Tampa Bay** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
8:20 p.m.	**New York Giants at Washington** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11), WBIG (100.3 FM)

WORLD CUP

10 a.m.	**Final: Argentina vs. France** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)

NBA

9:30 p.m.	**Washington at Los Angeles Lakers** » NBC Sports Washington, WTEM (980 AM)

NHL

2 p.m.	**Ottawa at Minnesota** » NHL Network
7:30 p.m.	**New York Rangers at Chicago** » ESPN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Noon	**Canisius at Penn State** » Big Ten Network
1 p.m.	**Stanford vs. Texas** » ESPN2
2 p.m.	**North Carolina A&T vs. Norfolk State** » ESPNU
3 p.m.	**Green Bay at Oregon State** » Pac-12 Network
4:30 p.m.	**Southern at UAB** » CBS Sports Network
4:30 p.m.	**Hampton vs. Texas Southern** » ESPNU
5 p.m.	**Northern Colorado at Colorado** » Pac-12 Network
5:30 p.m.	**Auburn at Southern California** » ESPN
6:30 p.m.	**Iona at New Mexico** » Fox Sports 1
7 p.m.	**San Diego at Arizona State** » Pac-12 Network
10 p.m.	**Baylor vs. Washington State** » ESPN2

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Noon	**Wake Forest at Syracuse** » ACC Network
1 p.m.	**Georgia Tech at Boston College** » MASN
1 p.m.	**Florida State vs. Connecticut** » ESPN
1 p.m.	**Samford at Auburn** » SEC Network
2 p.m.	**New Orleans at Rutgers** » Big Ten Network
2 p.m.	**Louisville at Pittsburgh** » ACC Network
3 p.m.	**Tennessee at Stanford** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
3 p.m.	**SMU at Texas A&M** » SEC Network
3:30 p.m.	**Texas vs. Southern California** » ESPN2
3:30 p.m.	**Iowa State vs. Villanova** » ESPN
4 p.m.	**Notre Dame at Virginia Tech** » ACC Network
4:30 p.m.	**Providence at St. John's** » Fox Sports 1
5 p.m.	**Illinois at Missouri** » SEC Network
6 p.m.	**Clemson at North Carolina State** » ACC Network
7:30 p.m.	**Baylor vs. Arizona** » ESPN2

GOLF

12:30 p.m.	**PGA Tour Champions: PNC Championship Pro-Am, final round** » Golf Channel
1:30 p.m.	**PGA Tour Champions: PNC Championship Pro-Am, final round** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)

TENNIS

5 a.m.	**Mubadala Championship, men's semifinals and final** » Tennis Channel
4 p.m.	**ATP/WTA: Waikiki Cup, exhibition and mixed doubles** » Tennis Channel

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Yankees snag Rodón on $162 million deal to bolster staff

BY CHELSEA JANES

The best left-handed starting pitcher available this winter is available no more after Carlos Rodón agreed to a deal with the New York Yankees on Thursday.

The deal will pay the 30-year-old $162 million over six years, according to a person with knowledge of the deal. Only nine starting pitchers in baseball history have signed deals guaranteeing more.

Rodón is a late bloomer who emerged as a legitimate ace in 2021 and has been an all-star the past two seasons. Since the start of 2021, he has pitched to a 2.67 ERA and averaged more than 12 strikeouts per nine innings — best of any starter who threw more than 300 innings in that span. He underwent Tommy John surgery in 2019 and has dealt with injuries throughout his career.

He joins Gerrit Cole and Luis Severino in a Yankees rotation that will now rely on two impossibly different lefties — the hard-throwing Rodón and the crafty savant Nestor Cortes. Rodón's arrival signals the first major improvement to a team that limped into October and was swept by the Houston Astros in the American League Championship Series.



GODOFREDO A. V SQUEZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lefty Carlos Rodón has averaged more than 12 strikeouts per nine innings since the start of 2021.

The Yankees began their off-season by re-signing first baseman Anthony Rizzo. They validated it by re-signing Aaron Judge. They are optimistic the injured foot that transformed infielder D.J. LeMahieu from two-time batting champion to off-the-playoff-roster spectator is finally healing. But they have not necessarily weatherproofed their lineup as much as last year's second-half and postseason struggles suggested they should.

And as was the case last winter, the Yankees are not even having the splashiest offseason in their own city as owner Steve Cohen and the New York Mets continue to spend. The Mets also re-signed key outfielder Brandon Nimmo and gave a massive deal to closer Edwin Díaz.

When Jacob deGrom left for Texas, the Mets replaced him with Cy Young winner Justin Verlander. When they needed more starters, they signed Japanese star Kodai Senga for $75 million over five years and committed $13 million annually to lefty Jose Quintana for two years. They signed veteran reliever David Robertson and traded for proven lefty reliever Brooks Rayley. Their payroll projects to be somewhere around $345 million on Opening Day, according to Cot's Baseball Contracts, which projects their luxury tax payment on that payroll to be just less than $76 million.

Because the new collective bargaining agreement implemented a tax penalty that significant, many free-spending teams have taken a similar approach to megadeals this winter. They are drafting long-term deals with a huge amount of guaranteed money but spreading it over enough years to ensure the payroll hit in any one season is not debilitating. While teams are signing older players such as Verlander to short-term deals for high yearly salaries to help minimize long-term team risk, they are signing position-playing superstars to deals that seem to incorporate some risk of decline on the back end.

Carlos Correa, for example, agreed to a 13-year deal with the San Francisco Giants on Tuesday, a deal that will guarantee him $350 million over the life of the deal but never cost the Giants more than $27 million annually. The Philadelphia Phillies signed Trea Turner for $300 million over 11 years, a deal that will pay him just more than $27 million annually. The San Diego Padres signed Xander Bogaerts to a deal that pays him $280 million overall but averages less than $26 million against the luxury tax each year.

Deals such as those have been staples in a somewhat frenetic free agent market, one in which most of the top projected earners have signed well before Christmas. Before last year's lockout, which inspired a flurry of deals in late November, recent offseasons had seen free agency drag out until nearer to spring training.

But with the Yankees plucking another top talent from the market Thursday, most of the blockbuster transactions to come probably will be trades.

NBA ROUNDUP

Warriors brace for a 'rocky ride' while Curry sits out with a shoulder injury

FROM NEWS SERVICES AND STAFF REPORTS

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry is expected to miss at least two weeks with a left shoulder subluxation, a person with knowledge of the situation confirmed Thursday, robbing the defending champions of their leading scorer as they slog through what Coach Steve Kerr has called a "championship hangover."

Curry, 34, suffered the injury while defending the Indiana Pacers' Jalen Smith during a 125-119 road loss Wednesday. As Smith drove to the hoop, Curry swiped down on the ball in an attempt to steal it. Smith maintained possession, and Curry immediately clutched his shoulder in pain. The two-time MVP departed for the locker room with a little more than two minutes remaining in the third quarter and did not return, finishing with 38 points, seven rebounds and seven assists in 30 minutes.

Golden State ruled out Curry with a shoulder injury midway through the fourth quarter, and he underwent an MRI exam Thursday. The initial recovery timeline would mean Curry misses at least seven games, including a much-anticipated Christmas showdown with Ja Morant's Memphis Grizzlies. The Warriors said further specifics on Curry's return would be "provided in the coming days."

"[Curry] was in good spirits. We'll hope for the best," Kerr told reporters Wednesday night. "My message to the group was that it's about competing, it's about weathering the storm. This has been a tough start to the season. We're in a tough stretch. Maybe it's going to get tougher if Steph is out for a little while. If he's out, it will for sure get tougher. You've just got to persevere. You just keep playing and keep fighting. It's a long season."



MICHAEL CONROY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stephen Curry will miss at least two weeks with a left shoulder subluxation, meaning he will be sidelined for a minimum of seven games.

The Warriors are 14-15 during a campaign that has been marked by major swings in their quality of play. Golden State is 12-2 at home, including a dominant showing against the Eastern Conference-leading Boston Celtics on Saturday. But the road, where the Warriors have posted a 2-13 record, has been a much different story.

Unfortunately for Golden State, Curry was injured in the second game of a six-game trip through the Eastern Conference that includes upcoming games against the Philadelphia 76ers and Brooklyn Nets.

"The thing I'm very, very confident about is that if we're healthy, we feel like we can beat anybody," Kerr said. "This team has proven that. Our job is to get there. We have to find a way to navigate this season. . . . I feel good about our team long term, even if it may be a rocky ride."

— Ben Golliver

• HAWKS: Atlanta center Clint Capela is expected to be out for one to two weeks after straining his right calf in Wednesday's 135-124 loss at Orlando.

Capela left the game with what was described as tightness with 5:10 left in the fourth quarter. The Hawks said an MRI exam revealed the strain.

Capela is averaging 12.1 points and ranks third in the NBA at 12 rebounds per game.

WIZARDS' NEXT THREE

at Los Angeles Clippers		
Tomorrow	4	NBCSW
at Los Angeles Lakers		
Sunday	9:30	NBCSW
at Phoenix Suns		
Tuesday	9	NBCSW

Radio: WTEM (980 AM)

Herro's heroics help the Heat

Tyler Herro matched the Miami record with 10 three-pointers and scored a career-high 41 points to help the Heat beat the host Houston Rockets, 111-108.

A night after making nine three-pointers and scoring 35 points in a win at Oklahoma City, Herro became the fourth Heat player to make 10 threes in a game.

Jalen Green led Houston with 22 points.

• GRIZZLIES 142, BUCKS 101: Ja Morant had 25 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists as host Memphis pounded Milwaukee.

The Grizzlies had a 50-point lead early in the fourth quarter — the NBA's largest advantage of the season.

Giannis Antetokounmpo and Bobby Portis led the Bucks with 19 points apiece.

• JAZZ 132, PELICANS 129 (OT): In Salt Lake City, Jordan Clarkson poured in 39 points as Utah prevailed in overtime against New Orleans, which got 31 points, eight rebounds and eight assists from Zion Williamson.

— Associated Press

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

No. 22 Badgers take a while to heat up before dispatching Mountain Hawks

WISCONSIN 78, LEHIGH 56

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steven Crowl scored 15 points, Jordan Davis had 14, and the 22nd-ranked Wisconsin men overcame a first-half deficit to beat Lehigh, 78-56, on Thursday night in Madison, Wis.

Freshman Connor Essegian added 13 points and matched a career high with six rebounds off the bench for the Badgers (9-2) in their fourth straight victory.

Tyler Wahl, who scored a career-high 21 points in Wisconsin's overtime victory at Iowa on Sunday, had 13 points and seven rebounds. Wisconsin was 11 for 21 from three-point range, with Davis going 4 for 6.

Badgers Coach Greg Gard said he liked the offensive spark that Essegian provided but said the 6-foot-4 guard needs to work on his defense.

"He got going, made some shots and gave us some energy," Gard said. "Connor moves well without the ball, and when he gets in a rhythm, he's a good player. We need to help him on the other end of the floor as well."

Evan Taylor led Lehigh (4-5) with 18 points, and Keith Higgins Jr. had 15. The Mountain Hawks shot 55.6 percent in the first meeting between the schools.

Higgins had six points to help the Mountain Hawks take a 17-8 lead. The Badgers had turnovers on six of their first 13 possessions.

Wahl said a halftime chat helped the Badgers focus on being confident and playing better defense.

"We were beating ourselves," Wahl said of the first-half effort. "We were getting easy looks and missing those, and then we had mental lapses on the defensive end."

Gard said the game changed after halftime.

"In the second half we were much more physical and aggressive," he said. "We were not in the first half, and that allowed [Lehigh] to get comfortable on offense."

Higgins scored five straight points to push Lehigh to a 43-38 lead early in the second half. But Essegian came off the bench and made back-to-back three-pointers to put the Badgers back on top at 44-43 with 13:21 left.

Lehigh Coach Brett Reed said the Mountain Hawks couldn't



ANDY MANIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steven Crowl scored 15 points as Wisconsin (9-2) rallied from a five-point deficit early in the second half to thump Lehigh at home.

handle the Badgers' hot shooting in the second half.

"We hit a small stretch, particularly in the second half, where we made some uncharacteristic mistakes, which allowed them to separate the game a little bit at that point," Reed said.

"It was a little bit harder to recover."

Gamecocks grind out a win

Zia Cooke scored 13 of her 18 points in the second half, and the top-ranked South Carolina women overcame a sluggish offensive effort to beat South Dakota State, 62-44, at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Although officially a neutral-site game, the crowd naturally favored the home-state Jackrabbits for their first game in school history against the nation's top-ranked team. The stands were about 75 percent full as a blizzard blanketed the area and stranded fans tried to get to the venue.

"This is a gut check win for us," South Carolina Coach Dawn Staley said. "To come here, to have the crowd. We're used to playing in front of big crowds. We're not used to playing in front of big crowds on the road. It just prepares us."

The Gamecocks (9-0) shot a season-low 34.3 percent, far below their season average of 48.2 percent, while also scoring a season low. South Carolina came in averaging 83 points and failed to reach 80 for just the third time.

Cooke was 1 for 9 from the field in the first half but erupted for 11 points in the final quarter. Aliyah Boston added 12 points and nine rebounds for South Carolina.

Myah Selland scored 12 points for the Jackrabbits (7-5).

Trailing by nine at halftime, South Dakota State got within six points midway through the third period.

• NORTH CAROLINA STATE 81, DAVIDSON 47: Aziaha James matched her career high with 19 points as the eighth-ranked Wolfpack ran away from the Wildcats in Raleigh, N.C.

James also had three assists — and shot 5 for 6 on three-pointers — as N.C. State (10-1) won its sixth straight and final nonconference contest of the season. Camille Hobby added 14 points for the Wolfpack.

Davidson (4-7) was led by 10 points from Issy Morgan. Elle Sutphin, who started her collegiate career at N.C. State, contributed six points, seven rebounds and three blocks.

• BAYLOR 93, TENNESSEE STATE 27: Freshman Darianna Littlepage-Buggs had a career-high 30 points and 11 rebounds for her fourth double-double to power the 18th-ranked Bears to a rout in Waco, Tex.

Baylor (8-2) held the Tigers to single-digit scoring in each of the final three quarters. The Bears started the third quarter on a 15-0 run and the fourth on an 18-0 surge.

Littlepage-Buggs was 13 for 18 from the field, and Tennessee State shot 12 for 56. Baylor held a 53-18 edge on the glass.

Shonnyvelle Regalado scored a team-high six points in nine minutes for Tennessee State (4-6), which turned it over 25 times.

SCOREBOARD

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL

NFC

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
y-Philadelphia	12	1	0	.923	386	248
Dallas	10	3	0	.769	360	229
N.Y. Giants	7	5	1	.577	267	300
Washington	7	5	1	.577	253	256

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	6	7	0	.462	224	254
Atlanta	5	8	0	.385	288	312
Carolina	5	8	0	.385	260	290
New Orleans	4	9	0	.308	265	297

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Minnesota	10	3	0	.769	312	313
Detroit	6	7	0	.462	349	347
Green Bay	5	8	0	.385	263	302
Chicago	3	10	0	.231	270	333

WEST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	4	0	.714	338	210
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	355	355
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	277	348
L.A. Rams	4	9	0	.308	218	296

AFC

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Buffalo	10	3	0	.769	353	221
Miami	8	5	0	.615	316	312
N.Y. Jets	7	6	0	.538	264	243
New England	7	6	0	.538	276	239

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	241	276
Jacksonville	5	8	0	.385	294	294
Indianapolis	4	8	1	.346	209	298
Houston	1	11	1	.115	211	314

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	301	250
Cincinnati	9	4	0	.692	335	265
Cleveland	5	8	0	.385	300	323
Pittsburgh	5	8	0	.385	227	293

WEST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Kansas City	10	3	0	.769	384	298
L.A. Chargers	7	6	0	.538	295	326
Las Vegas	5	8	0	.385	308	313
Denver	3	10	0	.231	194	238

y-clinched playoff spot

WEEK 15

THURSDAY'S GAMES

San Francisco 21, at Seattle 13

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Indianapolis at Minnesota, 1
Baltimore at Cleveland, 4:30
Miami at Buffalo, 8:15

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at New Orleans, 1
Dallas at Jacksonville, 1
Detroit at N.Y. Jets, 1
Kansas City at Houston, 1
Philadelphia at Chicago, 1
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 1
Arizona at Denver, 4:05
New England at Las Vegas, 4:05
Cincinnati at Tampa Bay, 4:25
Tennessee at L.A. Chargers, 4:25
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 8:20

MONDAY'S GAMES

L.A. Rams at Green Bay, 8:15

WEEK 16

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Jacksonville at N.Y. Jets, 8:15

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at Baltimore, 1
Buffalo at Chicago, 1
Cincinnati at New England, 1
Detroit at Carolina, 1
Houston at Tennessee, 1
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota, 1
New Orleans at Cleveland, 1
Seattle at Kansas City, 1
Washington at San Francisco, 4:05
Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:25
Las Vegas at Pittsburgh, 8:15

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Green Bay at Miami, 1
Denver at L.A. Rams, 4:30
Tampa Bay at Arizona, 8:20

MONDAY'S GAMES

L.A. Chargers at Indianapolis, 8:15

49ers 21, Seahawks 13

SAN FRANCISCO	7	7	7	0	—21
SEATTLE	0	3	3	7	—13

FIRST QUARTER
San Francisco: Kittle 28 pass from Purdy (Gould kick), 3:58. **Drive:** 9 plays, 86 yards, 5:24. **Key Plays:** McCaffrey 23 run

SECOND QUARTER
Seattle: FG Myers 38, 4:47. **Drive:** 12 plays, 62 yards, 5:50. **Key Plays:** G.Smith 13 pass to Metcalf
San Francisco: McCaffrey 1 run (Gould kick), :49. **Drive:** 2 plays, 6 yards, 00:09. San Francisco 14, Seattle 3.

THIRD QUARTER
San Francisco: Kittle 54 pass from Purdy (Gould kick), 14:13. **Drive:** 3 plays, 59 yards, 1:00. **Key Play:** McCloud kick return to San Francisco 41. San Francisco 21, Seattle 3.
Seattle: FG Myers 51, 8:08. **Drive:** 11 plays, 42 yards, 5:52. **Key Plays:** Lenoir 0 interception return to Seattle 42

FOURTH QUARTER
Seattle: Fant 10 pass from G.Smith (Myers kick), 3:39. **Drive:** 7 plays, 67 yards, 1:25. **Key Plays:** Walker 2 run on 3rd-and-1

	SF	SEA
First Downs	15	16
Rushing	7	3
Passing	8	12
Penalty	0	1
Third Down Eff	6-13	4-13
Fourth Down Eff	0-0	0-0
Total Net Yards	381	277
Total Plays	61	61
Avg Gain	6.2	4.5
Net Yards Rushing	170	70
Rushes	34	14
Avg Per Rush	5.0	5.0
Net Yards Passing	211	207
Sacked-Yds Lost	1-6	3-31
Gross-Yds Passing	217	238
Completed-Att.	17-26	31-44
Had Intercepted	0	0
Yards-Pass Play	7.815	4.404
Kickoffs-Endzone-Tb	4-1-1	4-3-2
Punts-Avg.	6-42.167	7-49.857
Punts Blocked	0	0
Fgs-Pats Blocked	0-0	0-0
Total Return Yardage	84	83
Punt Returns	2-17	0-0
Kickoff Returns	2-67	3-83
Interceptions	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yds	7-60	8-79
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Time Of Possession	33:01	26:59

PASSING
San Francisco: Purdy 17-26-0-217.
Seattle: G.Smith 31-44-0-238.

RUSHING
San Francisco: McCaffrey 26-108, Mason 4-64, Purdy 4-(minus 2).
Seattle: Walker 12-47, G.Smith 1-18, Homer 1-5.

RECEIVING
San Francisco: McCaffrey 6-30, Kittle 4-93, Jennings 3-31, Aiyuk 2-19, Kroft 1-28, McCloud 1-16.
Seattle: Lockett 7-68, Metcalf 7-55, Fant 5-32, Walker 4-32, Homer 4-25, Goodwin 2-10, Dissly 1-13, Hart 1-3.

PUNT RETURNS
San Francisco: McCloud 2-17.
Seattle: None.

KICKOFF RETURNS
San Francisco: McCloud 2-67.
Seattle: Igwebuike 3-83.

TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS
San Francisco: Lenoir 9-1-0, Warner 6-2-0, C.Ward 6-0-0, Greenlaw 4-4-0, J.Ward 4-0-0, Gipson 3-2-0, Hufanga 3-1-1, Al-Shaair 2-1-0, Bosa 1-1-1, Ebukam 1-0-1, Armstead 1-0-0, Hyder 1-0-0, Jenkins 1-0-0, Jackson 0-1-0, Spence 0-1-0.
Seattle: Barton 6-4-0, M.Jackson 5-0-0, Nwosu 4-2-0, Brooks 3-5-0, Diggs 3-4-0, Neal 3-2-0, Irvin 2-1-0, Woolen 2-1-0, Jefferson 2-0-1, Muse 1-3-0, M.Adams 1-1-0, Bryant 1-1-0, Collier 1-1-0, Lucas 1-0-0, Mafe 1-0-0, Taylor 1-0-0, Ford 0-1-0.

INTERCEPTIONS
San Francisco: None. Seattle, None.

MISSED FIELD GOALS
San Francisco: Gould 43.

SOCCER

World Cup

QUARTERFINALS
FRIDAY'S RESULTS
IN RAYYAN
Croatia 1, Brazil 1 (Croatia 4-2 on penalty kicks)
IN LUSAIL
Argentina 2, Netherlands 2 (Argentina 4-3 on penalty kicks)
SATURDAY'S RESULTS
IN DOHA
Morocco 1, Portugal 0
IN KHOR
France 2, England 1

SEMIFINALS
TUESDAY'S MATCH
IN LUSAIL
Argentina 3, Croatia 0
WEDNESDAY'S MATCH
IN KHOR
France 2, Morocco 0

THIRD PLACE
SATURDAY'S MATCH
IN RAYYAN
Croatia vs. Morocco, 10 a.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP
SUNDAY'S MATCH
IN LUSAIL
Argentina vs. France, 10 a.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

NCAA

BOWL SCHEDULE
FRIDAY'S GAMES
BAHAMAS BOWL — IN NASSAU, BAHAMAS
Miami (Ohio) vs. UAB, 11:30 a.m.
CURE BOWL — IN ORLANDO
No. 25 Texas San Antonio vs. No. 24 Troy, 3

SATURDAY'S GAMES
FENWAY BOWL — IN BOSTON
Louisville vs. Cincinnati, 11 a.m.
CELEBRATION BOWL — IN ATLANTA
Jackson State vs. North Carolina Central, 11 a.m.
NEW MEXICO BOWL — IN ALBUQUERQUE
BYU vs. SMU, 2:15
L.A. BOWL — IN INGLEWOOD, CALIF.
Fresno State vs. Washington State, 3:30
LENDINGTREE BOWL — IN MOBILE, ALA.
Rice vs. Southern Mississippi, 5:45
LAS VEGAS BOWL —IN LAS VEGAS
No. 14 Oregon State vs. Florida, 7:30
FRISCO BOWL —IN FRISCO, TEX.
North Texas vs. Boise State, 9:15

MONDAY'S GAME
MYRTLE BEACH BOWL — IN CONWAY, S.C.
Marshall vs. Connecticut, 2:30

TUESDAY, DEC. 20
FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL — IN BOISE
San Jose State vs. Eastern Michigan, 3:30
BOCA RATON BOWL — IN BOCA RATON, FLA.
Liberty vs. Toledo, 7:30

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21
NEW ORLEANS BOWL — IN NEW ORLEANS
South Alabama vs. Western Kentucky, 9

THURSDAY, DEC. 22
ARMED FORCES BOWL — IN FORT WORTH
Baylor vs. Air Force, 7:30

FRIDAY, DEC. 23
GASPARILLA BOWL — IN TAMPA
Missouri vs. Wake Forest, 6:30
INDEPENDENCE BOWL — IN SHREVEPORT, LA.
Houston vs. Louisiana Lafayette, 3

SATURDAY, DEC. 24
HAWAII BOWL — IN HONOLULU
Middle Tennessee vs. San Diego State, 8

MONDAY, DEC. 26
QUICK LANE BOWL — IN DETROIT
New Mexico State vs. Bowling Green, 2:30

TUESDAY, DEC. 27
FIRST RESPONDER BOWL — IN DALLAS
Memphis vs. Utah State, 3:15
BIRMINGHAM BOWL — IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
Coastal Carolina vs. East Carolina, 6:45
CAMELLIA BOWL — IN MONTGOMERY, ALA.
Georgia Southern vs. Buffalo, noon
GUARANTEED RATE BOWL — IN PHOENIX
Wisconsin vs. Oklahoma State, 10:15

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28
MILITARY BOWL — IN ANNAPOLIS
UCF vs. Duke, 2
LIBERTY BOWL — IN MEMPHIS
Arkansas vs. Kansas, 5:30
HOLIDAY BOWL — IN SAN DIEGO
No. 15 Oregon vs. North Carolina, 8
TEXAS BOWL — IN HOUSTON
Texas Tech vs. Mississippi, 9

THURSDAY, DEC. 29
PINSTRIPE BOWL — IN NEW YORK
Syracuse vs. Minnesota, 2
CHEEZ-IT BOWL — IN ORLANDO
No. 13 Florida State vs. Oklahoma, 5:30
ALAMO BOWL — IN SAN ANTONIO
No. 12 Washington vs. No. 20 Texas, 9

FRIDAY, DEC. 30
ORANGE BOWL — IN MIAMI GARDENS, FLA.
No. 6 Tennessee vs. No. 7 Clemson, 8
DUKE'S MAYO BOWL — IN CHARLOTTE
No. 23 North Carolina State vs. Maryland, noon
SUN BOWL — IN EL PASO
No. 18 UCLA vs. Pittsburgh, 2
GATOR BOWL — IN JACKSONVILLE, FLA.
No. 21 Notre Dame vs. No. 19 South Carolina, 3:30
ARIZONA BOWL — IN TUCSON
Wyoming vs. Ohio, 4:30
SATURDAY, DEC. 31
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
PEACH BOWL — IN ATLANTA
No. 1 Georgia vs. No. 4 Ohio State, 8

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
FIESTA BOWL — IN GLENDALE, ARIZ.
No. 2 Michigan vs. No. 3 TCU, 4
MUSIC CITY BOWL — IN NASHVILLE
Kentucky vs. Iowa, noon
SUGAR BOWL — IN NEW ORLEANS
No. 5 Alabama vs. No. 9 Kansas State, noon
MONDAY, JAN. 2
RELIAQUEST BOWL — IN TAMPA
No. 22 Mississippi State vs. Illinois, noon
CITRUS BOWL — IN ORLANDO
No. 17 LSU vs. Purdue, 1
COTTON BOWL CLASSIC — IN ARLINGTON, TEX.
No. 10 Southern California vs. No. 16 Tulane, 1
ROSE BOWL — IN PASADENA, CALIF.
No. 8 Utah vs. No. 11 Penn State, 5
MONDAY, JAN. 9
COLLEGE FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN INGLEWOOD, CALIF.
Semifinal winners, 7:30

HIGH SCHOOLS

Thursday's results

BOYS' BASKETBALL

D.C.
Banneker 47, Parkside 46
E.L. Haynes 69, BASIS 46
KIPP 62, Washington Latin Public 23
Maryland
Chesapeake 60, Green Street Academy 46
Virginia
Broad Run 54, Heritage 36
Champe 48, Woodgrove 45
Freedom (South Riding) 55, Potomac Falls 51
Loudoun County 55, Lightridge 38
Tuscarora 51, Rock Ridge 48
Westfield 57, Colonial Forge 52
Yorktown 42, Washington-Liberty 41
Private
Indian Creek 64, Patapsco 40
Rosedale 58, National Christian Academy 47
Washington Christian Academy 43, Edmund Burke 30

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Maryland
Howard 64, Glenelg 27
Parkdale 38, Bowie 31
Suitland 56, Bladensburg 24
Wise 50, Laurel 21
Virginia
Lightridge 50, Loudoun County 35
Potomac Falls 42, Freedom (South Riding) 40
Washington-Liberty 71, Yorktown 44
Woodgrove 81, Champe 13
Private
Bishop Ireton 65, Riverdale Baptist 43
Holton-Arms 52, Madeira 19
Severn 65, National Christian 44

WRESTLING

Maryland
Winters Mill 47, Centennial 30

BOYS' SWIMMING

Private
Severn 58, Beth Tfiloh 36
Severn 72, Pallotti 22

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	22	7	.759	—
Brooklyn	17	12	.586	5
Philadelphia	15	12	.556	6
New York	15	13	.536	6½
Toronto	13	15	.464	8½

SOUTHEAST	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	15	15	.500	—
Atlanta	14	15	.483	½
Washington	11	18	.379	3½
Orlando	9	20	.310	5½
Charlotte	7	21	.250	7

CENTRAL	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	20	8	.714	—
Cleveland	18	11	.621	2½
Indiana	15	14	.517	5½
Chicago	11	16	.407	8½
Detroit	8	22	.267	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	19	9	.679	—
New Orleans	18	10	.643	1
Dallas	14	14	.500	5
San Antonio	9	19	.321	10
Houston	9	19	.321	10

NORTHWEST	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	17	10	.630	—
Portland	16	12	.571	1½
Utah	17	14	.548	2
Minnesota	13	15	.464	4½
Oklahoma City	11	17	.393	6½

PACIFIC	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Phoenix	16	12	.571	—
x-L.A. Clippers	17	13	.567	—
Sacramento	15	12	.556	½
Golden State	14	15	.483	2½
L.A. Lakers	11	16	.407	4½

x-Late game

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Denver 141, Washington 128
Orlando 135, Atlanta 124
Indiana 125, Golden State 119
Detroit 141, Charlotte 134, OT
Sacramento 124, Toronto 123
New York 128, Chicago 120, OT
Portland 128, San Antonio 112
Miami 110, Oklahoma City 108
Cleveland 105, Dallas 90
L.A. Clippers 99, Minnesota 88

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Memphis 142, Milwaukee 101
Miami 111, Houston 108
Utah 132, New Orleans 129, OT
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at Charlotte, 7
Sacramento at Detroit, 7
Brooklyn at Toronto, 7:30
Golden State at Philadelphia, 7:30
Indiana at Cleveland, 7:30
Orlando at Boston, 7:30
Minnesota at Oklahoma City, 8
New York at Chicago, 8
Portland at Dallas, 8:30
Denver at L.A. Lakers, 10

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Washington at L.A. Clippers, 4
Miami at San Antonio, 5
Dallas at Cleveland, 8
Memphis at Oklahoma City, 8
Portland at Houston, 8
Utah at Milwaukee, 8
New Orleans at Phoenix, 9

Jazz 132, Pelicans 129 (OT)

New Orleans	25	37	33	28	6	—129
Utah	27	31	33	32	9	—132

NEW ORLEANS	MIN	FG	FT	O-T	A	PF	PTS
Murphy III	32:42	4-8	1-1	1-5	0	6	12
Williamson	41:33	12-24	6-8	5-8	8	2	31
Valanciunas	26:09	3-6	0-0	3-9	1	3	6
Jones	21:11	3-6	5-6	3-4	4	6	12
McCollum	41:33	11-25	3-3	0-6	4	5	28
Marshall	33:07	4-11	5-6	1-2	2	2	13
Nance Jr.	29:29	6-9	0-0	3-9	1	3	13
Graham	20:01	2-5	3-4	1-3	3	1	8
Daniels	19:12	2-5	0-0	2-3	1	2	6
TOTALS	265	47-99	23-28	19-49	24	30	129

Percentages: FG .475, FT .821. **3-Point Goals:** 12-30, .400 (Murphy III 3-7, McCollum 3-8, Daniels 2-4, Jones 1-1, Williamson 1-1, Nance Jr. 1-2, Graham 1-3, Marshall 0-4). **Team Rebounds:** 5. **Team Turnovers:** 2. **Blocked Shots:** 6 (McCollum 2, Williamson 2, Nance Jr., Valanciunas). **Turnovers:** 16 (McCollum 4, Daniels 3, Williamson 3, Graham 2, Marshall, Murphy III, Nance Jr., Valanciunas). **Steals:** 8 (Marshall 4, Daniels, Jones, Murphy III, Nance Jr.). **Technical Fouls:** None.

UTAH	MIN	FG	FT	O-T	A	PF	PTS
Markkanen	42:09	8-15	10-10	0-5	3	5	31
Olynyk	35:17	3-11	7-7	2-7	3	3	14
Vanderbilt	21:25	0-4	3-4	2-6	3	1	3
Clarkson	38:32	15-26	2-3	3-8	2	1	39
Conley	32:15	1-8	2-6	0-2	6	3	4
Kessler	28:17	4-4	3-4	2-8	1	5	11
Beasley	25:34	6-15	1-1	0-3	1	1	17
Alexander-Walker	20:55	2-4	2-2	0-1	3	3	7
Gay	17:31	1-3	0-0	1-3	2	3	2
Azubuike	3:03	2-2	0-0	1-1	0	0	4
TOTALS	265	42-92	30-37	11-44	24	25	132

Percentages: FG .457, FT .811. **3-Point Goals:** 18-47, .383 (Clarkson 7-14, Markkanen 5-9, Beasley 4-11, Alexander-Walker 1-3, Olynyk 1-4, Gay 0-1, Vanderbilt 0-1, Conley 0-4). **Team Rebounds:** 16. **Team Turnovers:** None. **Blocked Shots:** 6 (Kessler 3, Alexander-Walker, Beasley, Gay). **Turnovers:** 16 (Clarkson 4, Olynyk 3, Conley 2, Kessler 2, Markkanen 2, Alexander-Walker, Azubuike, Beasley). **Steals:** 8 (Clarkson 2, Gay 2, Vanderbilt 2, Alexander-Walker, Kessler). **Technical Fouls:** Jazz, 7:28 second.

Grizzlies 142, Bucks 101

MILWAUKEE	18	23	30	30	— 101
MEMPHIS	33	37	47	25	— 142

MILWAUKEE: G.Antetokounmpo 5-13 8-13 19, Middleton 1-12 0-0 3, Lopez 1-6 2-2 4, Allen 2-7 0-0 4, Carter 3-6 0-0 9, Beauchamp 4-9 3-5 12, Nwora 3-8 3-3 10, Portis 8-14 1-2 19, T.Antetokounmpo 1-1 1-2 3, A.Green 4-6 0-0 10, Connaughton 1-5 0-0 3, Hill 2-7 0-0 5, Matthews 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals** 35-94 18-27 101.

MEMPHIS: Brooks 7-14 3-3 18, Jackson Jr. 1-2 1-2 4, Adams 4-8 2-2 10, Konchar 2-4 0-0 5, Morant 9-21 5-8 25, Clarke 6-6 0-0 12, LaRavia 1-2 0-0 2, Roddy 7-13 0-0 15, Tillman 3-3 2-2 8, Williams 5-11 0-0 11, Aldama 4-6 4-5 14, Chandler 1-3 0-0 2, Jones 6-9 1-1 16. **Totals** 56-102 18-23 142.

Three-point Goals: Milwaukee 13-50 (Carter 3-4, A.Green 2-4, Portis 2-4, G.Antetokounmpo 1-3, Nwora 1-4, Connaughton 1-5, Beauchamp 1-6, Hill 1-6, Middleton 1-8, Allen 0-2, Lopez 0-4), Memphis 12-32 (Jones 3-3, Aldama 2-3, Morant 2-8, Jackson Jr. 1-1, Konchar 1-1, Brooks 1-4, Williams 1-5, Roddy 1-6, LaRavia 0-1). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Milwaukee 39 (Portis 7), Memphis 56 (Morant 10). **Assists:** Milwaukee 22 (G.Antetokounmpo, Hill, Middleton 5), Memphis 30 (Morant 10). **Total Fouls:** Milwaukee 18, Memphis 19.

Heat 111, Rockets 108

MIAMI	29	37	20	25	— 111
HOUSTON	29	23	33	23	— 108

MIAMI: Butler 7-13 6-10 20, Martin 5-9 3-3 13, Haslem 0-4 0-0 0, Herro 13-20 5-5 41, Strus 5-14 0-1 12, D.Robinson 3-12 0-0 8, Highsmith 3-9 0-0 8, O.Robinson 3-7 3-4 9. **Totals** 39-88 17-23 111.

HOUSTON: Gordon 4-11 0-1 12, Smith Jr. 6-14 2-3 15, Sengun 6-10 0-0 12, Green 8-21 5-6 22, Porter Jr. 10-17 1-1 21, Eason 2-7 0-0 5, Garuba 1-1 0-2 2, Martin Jr. 4-8 1-2 10, Fernando 1-1 0-0 2, Mathews 1-2 2-2 5, Washington Jr. 1-2 0-0 2. **Totals** 44-94 11-17 108.

Three-point Goals: Miami 16-47 (Herro 10-15, Highsmith 2-4, D.Robinson 2-11, Strus 2-11, Butler 0-1, O.Robinson 0-2, Martin 0-3), Houston 9-33 (Gordon 4-9, Eason 1-2, Mathews 1-2, Martin Jr. 1-4, Green 1-6, Smith Jr. 1-7, Washington Jr. 0-1, Porter Jr. 0-2). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Miami 40 (Butler 10), Houston 50 (Smith Jr. 11). **Assists:** Miami 21 (Butler 7), Houston 22 (Porter Jr., Washington Jr. 5). **Total Fouls:** Miami 19, Houston 19. **A:** 16,210 (18,500)

Clippers 99, Timberwolves 88

Late Wednesday

MINNESOTA	21	22	22	23	— 88
L.A. CLIPPERS	19	19	29	32	— 99

MINNESOTA: Anderson 5-10 3-6 13, McDaniels 3-11 0-0 6, Gobert 3-5 5-7 11, Edwards 6-14 5-7 19, Rivers 1-7 2-2 5, Minott 1-1 2-2 4, Ryan 0-0 0-0 0, Reid 3-5 3-4 9, Knight 2-2 0-0 4, Garza 0-1 0-0 0, Forbes 0-1 0-0 0, Moore Jr. 1-1 2-2 4, Nowell 6-16 0-0 13. **Totals** 31-74 22-30 88.

L.A. CLIPPERS: Leonard 7-18 4-6 19, Morris Sr. 4-13 2-2 12, Zubac 1-5 0-0 2, George 4-13 7-8 17, Jackson 4-9 1-1 10, Covington 2-7 0-0 5, Batum 5-9 0-0 13, Coffey 0-0 0-0 0, Mann 2-6 1-2 5, Brown 0-0 0-0 0, Boston Jr. 0-1 0-0 0, Kennard 5-8 2-2 16. **Totals** 34-89 17-21 99.

Three-point Goals: Minnesota 4-22 (Edwards 2-7, Nowell 1-4, Rivers 1-4, Forbes 0-1, Garza 0-1, Anderson 0-2, McDaniels 0-3), L.A. Clippers 14-46 (Kennard 4-7, Batum 3-7, George 2-7, Morris Sr. 2-8, Jackson 1-2, Covington 1-6, Leonard 1-6, Boston Jr. 0-1, Mann 0-2). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Minnesota 43 (Gobert 13), L.A. Clippers 52 (George 11). **Assists:** Minnesota 15 (Anderson 5), L.A. Clippers 21 (George 11). **Total Fouls:** Minnesota 20, L.A. Clippers 21. **A:** 14,063 (18,997)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NCAA men

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

EAST

Alderson-Broaddus 84, Salem International 82, OT
Massachusetts Boston 85, Westfield St. 74
Mercyhurst 82, Nyack 56
Virginia Wise 94, Limestone 86, OT
Wagner 58, Stony Brook 55

SOUTH

Alabama Huntsville 58, West Georgia 57
Austin 66, Hendrix 60
Bowie St. 75, Livingstone 73, OT
Chattanooga 82, Middle Tennessee 73
Claflin 78, Elizabeth City St. 69
Kentucky St. 82, Fort Valley St. 75
Lander 74, Columbus St. 59
Lane 63, Clark Atlanta 58
Louisiana Lafayette 78, McNeese St. 70
Miles 69, Benedict 66
Morehouse 78, LeMoyne-Owen 67
Nicholls 88, SE Louisiana 73
Presbyterian 69, Elon 63
SC Aiken 68, Barton 64
Spring Hill 81, Edward Waters 72
Tuskegee 61, Savannah St. 41
UNC Pembroke 88, King (Tenn.) 62
Va. Wesleyan 77, Christopher Newport 76
Valdosta St. 88, Palm Beach Atlantic 83
West Florida 72, Georgia College 59
Winston-Salem 69, Lincoln (Pa.) 65

MIDWEST

Capital 75, Kalamazoo 57
Cedarville 102, Ohio Dominican 64
Central St. (Ohio) 86, Albany St. (Ga.) 69
Hillsdale 80, Findlay 62
Malone 104, Kentucky Wesleyan 71
Otterbein 79, Adrian 70
Rockhurst 85, Manhattan Christian Thunder 66
S. Indiana 84, Saint Mary of The Woods Pomeroys 42
Tiffin 72, Northwood (Mich.) 60
Wisconsin Eau Claire 81, Wisconsin Superior 62
Wisconsin St. 78, Lehigh 56

SOUTHWEST

Mary Hardin-Baylor 87, Howard Payne 65
McMurry 86, Ozarks 77
Rice 92, North American 54
S. Nazarene 77, Oklahoma Christian 61
Texas A&M International 114, Southwestern Adventist 38

WEST

BYU 97, W. Oregon 64
Colorado 84, North Alabama 60
Dallas Baptist 88, W. New Mexico 58
Texas Rio Grande Valley 106, SW Christian 80
Utah St. 106, Westminster (Utah) 68

NCAA women

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

EAST

Princeton 77, Rutgers 56

SOUTH

Alabama 69, UALR 44
Auburn 79, N.C. A&T 63
Chattanooga 55, North Alabama 44
Coastal Carolina 83, Erskine 24
Florida St. 98, Presbyterian 37
Gardner-Webb 67, East Carolina 59
Kennesaw St. 75, Furman 69
Liberty 75, Limestone 48
Mississippi St. 72, Florida A&M 47
NC Central 72, Appalachian St. 70
NC State 81, Davidson 47
Radford 73, Queens (NC) 57
Richmond 63, Elon 51
UNC Greensboro 65, Stetson 58
Wake Forest 83, Longwood 43

MIDWEST

Akron 80, Notre Dame (Ohio) 54
Bowling Green 84, IUPUI 70
South Carolina 62, S. Dakota St. 44
Texas Rio Grande Valley 55, St. Mary's (Tex.) 39
UMKC 74, Bellevue (WA) 58
W. Kentucky 58, Indiana St. 51

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas St. 79, Grambling St. 66
Baylor 93, Tennessee St. 27
Incarnate Word 56, UTSA 53
Stephen F. Austin 101, Texas Wesleyan 40

WEST

Idaho 91, Denver 83
Oregon 88, E. Washington 38
UC Davis 76, William Jessup 30

No. 1 South Carolina 62, S. Dakota St. 44

SOUTH CAROLINA	11	18	12	21	— 62
S. DAKOTA ST.	8	12	12	12	— 44

South Carolina (10-0)
Boston 5-10 2-3 12, Saxton 1-2 0-0 2, Beal 4-8 0-0 9, Cooke 7-18 3-4 18, Fletcher 3-9 0-0 6, Amihere 1-5 0-0 2, Watkins 0-0 0-0 0, Cardoso 2-7 4-8 8, Cooper 0-1 0-0 0, Johnson 0-2 0-0 0, Thompson 0-0 0-0 0, Feagin 0-0 2-2 2, Hall 1-8 1-1 3, **Totals 24-70 12-18 62**
S. Dakota St. (7-5)
Burckhard 0-3 0-0 0, Nelson 1-8 1-2 3, Selland 5-14 1-1 12, Gylten 1-7 2-2 4, Timmer 3-8 0-2 6, Meyer 4-9 2-4 10, Theisen 0-2 2-2 2, Mathiowetz 1-2 3-4 5, Vlastuin 0-2 2-2 2, **Totals 15-55 13-19 44**
Three-point goals: South Carolina 2-15 (Boston 0-2, Beal 1-3, Cooke 1-5, Fletcher 0-1, Amihere 0-1, Hall 0-3), S. Dakota St. 1-11 (Burckhard 0-1, Selland 1-4, Gylten 0-3, Timmer 0-1, Vlastuin 0-2). **Assists:** South Carolina 10 (Amihere 3, Beal 3, Fletcher 3), S. Dakota St. 10 (Nelson 4). **Fouled out:** None. **Rebounds:** South Carolina 48 (Cardoso 15), S. Dakota St. 41 (Theisen 7). **Total fouls:** South Carolina 19, S. Dakota St. 17. Technical Fouls_None. **A:** 2,369.

No. 16 Oregon 88, E. Washington 38

E. WASHINGTON	15	5	5	13	— 38
OREGON	24	18	25	21	— 88

E. Washington (6-3)
Knowles 0-1 0-0 0, Martin 2-9 0-0 4, Alexander 1-9 2-2 5, Buckley 3-7 0-0 8, Loera 2-13 4-4 9, Jentzsch 1-2 0-0 2, McNeal 2-3 0-0 4, Gallatin 1-4 0-0 2, Jung 1-1 0-0 3, Lawrence 0-6 1-2 1, Zylak 0-1 0-2 0, Pettis 0-5 0-0 0, **Totals 13-61 7-10 38**
Oregon (8-1)
VanSlooten 11-17 4-6 26, Kyei 5-9 1-2 11, Gray 4-13 1-1 10, Paopao 2-7 0-0 5, Rogers 4-9 2-4 11, Hosendove 0-0 2-2 2, Hanson 4-7 0-0 10, Hurst 4-12 0-0 11, Isai 1-3 0-2 2, **Totals 35-77 10-17 88**
Three-point goals: E. Washington 5-31 (Martin 0-6, Alexander 1-6, Buckley 2-2, Loera 1-6, McNeal 0-1, Gallatin 0-3, Jung 1-1, Lawrence 0-5, Pettis 0-1), Oregon 8-25 (Gray 1-6, Paopao 1-3, Rogers 1-3, Hanson 2-3, Hurst 3-8, Isai 0-2). **Assists:** E. Washington 9 (Lawrence 2, Martin 2), Oregon 19 (Kyei 5). **Fouled out:** None. **Rebounds:** E. Washington 27 (Loera 6), Oregon 65 (Kyei 18). **Total fouls:** E. Washington 11, Oregon 11. Technical Fouls_None. **A:** 5,584.

No. 18 Baylor 93, Tennessee St. 27

TENNESSEE ST.	13	6	4	4	— 27
BAYLOR	27	18	26	22	— 93

Tennessee St. (4-6)
Cole 1-3 0-0 2, McCullough 2-3 0-2 4, Adams 1-9 0-0 3, Haynes-Overton 0-7 0-0 0, Parker 0-7 0-0 0, Jackson 0-0 0-0 0, Malone 1-4 0-2 2, Muhammad 0-1 2-2 2, Regalado 3-5 0-0 6, Shannon 2-11 0-0 4, Suarez-Tudela 0-2 0-0 0, Davis 1-2 0-0 2, Walker 0-1 0-0 0, Westbrook 1-1 0-0 2, **Totals 12-56 2-6 27**
Baylor (8-2)
Bickle 4-5 0-0 8, Andrews 2-4 0-0 4, Asberry 5-8 4-4 16, Littlepage-Buggs 13-18 4-5 30, Owens 0-2 0-0 0, Porter 1-1 1-2 3, Abraham 0-1 0-0 0, Blackwell 3-5 5-6 11, Ferreira 1-3 0-0 2, Fontleroy 4-8 2-4 12, Van Gytenbeek 3-6 0-0 7, **Totals 36-61 16-21 93**
Three-point goals: Tennessee St. 1-16 (McCullough 0-1, Adams 1-4, Haynes-Overton 0-1, Parker 0-4, Shannon 0-3, Suarez-Tudela 0-2, Walker 0-1), Baylor 5-13 (Andrews 0-2, Asberry 2-3, Owens 0-2, Fontleroy 2-4, Van Gytenbeek 1-2). **Assists:** Tennessee St. 5 (Shannon 2), Baylor 26 (Andrews 6, Owens 6). **Fouled out:** None. **Rebounds:** Tennessee St. 17 (Cole 3, Shannon 3), Baylor 53 (Littlepage-Buggs 11). **Total fouls:** Tennessee St. 19, Baylor 10. Technical Fouls_None. **A:** 8,700.

TENNIS

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WOMEN'S SINGLES — QUARTERFINALS

Anhelina Kalinina (5), Ukraine, def. Zhang Shuai (1), China, 6-3, 6-1; Anna Blinkova, Russia, def. Ana Bogdan (4), Romania, 6-1, 6-2; Clara Tauson, Denmark, def. Varvara Gracheva, Russia, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; Lucia Bronzetti (6), Italy, def. Clara Burel, France, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES — SEMIFINALS

Alicia Barnett and Olivia Nicholls, Britain, def. Renata Voracova, Czech Republic, and Jessika Ponchet, France, 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 10-4; Oksana Kalashnikova, Georgia, and Marta Kostyuk (1), Ukraine, def. Anastasia Detiuc, Czech Republic, and Anna Blinkova, Russia, 6-4, 6-1.

HOCKEY

NHL

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	29	23	4	2	48	112	64
Toronto	31	19	6	6	44	101	73
Tampa Bay	29	19	9	1	39	105	85
Detroit	29	13	10	6	32	85	91
Florida	31	14	13	4	32	104	102
Buffalo	30	14	14	2	30	122	106
Montreal	30	14	14	2	30	88	105
Ottawa	29	13	14	2	28	89	91

METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	30	21	7	2	44	105	73
Carolina	29	17	6	6	40	84	75
Pittsburgh	30	18	8	4	40	106	86
N.Y. Rangers	31	16	10	5	37	96	86
N.Y. Islanders	30	17	12	1	35	95	84
Washington	32	15	13	4	34	95	94
Philadelphia	31	10	14	7	27	74	100
Columbus	29	10	17	2	22	81	119

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	31	18	8	5	41	112	85
Winnipeg	29	19	9	1	39	96	76
Minnesota	29	16	11	2	34	92	86
Colorado	28	15	11	2	32	88	83
St. Louis	30	14	15	2	29	89	111
Nashville	28	12	12	4	28	71	87
Arizona	27	9	14	4	22	74	99
Chicago	28	7	17	4	18	66	105

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	32	22	9	1	45	108	86
Los Angeles	33	16	12	5	37	109	120
Edmonton	31	18	13	0	36	116	107
Seattle	29	16	10	3	35	100	94
Calgary	30	13	11	6	32	90	93
Vancouver	29	13	13	3	29	101	112
San Jose	31	10	16	5	25	96	112
Anaheim	31	8	20	3	19	75	132

x-Late game

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Ottawa 3, Montreal 2
Minnesota 4, Detroit 1
Vancouver 4, Calgary 3, SO

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Dallas 2, Washington 1
Carolina 3, Seattle 2
N.Y. Rangers 3, Toronto 1
Tampa Bay 4, Columbus 1
Philadelphia 2, New Jersey 1
Anaheim 5, Montreal 2
Pittsburgh 4, Florida 2
Los Angeles 3, Boston 2, SO
Winnipeg 2, Nashville 1, OT
Vegas 4, Chicago 1
Buffalo 4, Colorado 2
St. Louis 4, Edmonton 3, SO

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Chicago at Minnesota, 8
St. Louis at Calgary, 9
N.Y. Islanders at Arizona, 9:30

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Toronto at Washington, 7
Columbus at Boston, 1
Ottawa at Detroit, 1
Anaheim at Edmonton, 4
Dallas at Carolina, 7
N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia, 7
Tampa Bay at Montreal, 7
Florida at New Jersey, 7:30
Buffalo at Arizona, 9
Nashville at Colorado, 9
N.Y. Islanders at Vegas, 10
Winnipeg at Vancouver, 10
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Ottawa at Minnesota, 2
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 5
N.Y. Rangers at Chicago, 7:30
Winnipeg at Seattle, 8
Calgary at San Jose, 10

Lightning 4, Blue Jackets 1

COLUMBUS	0	1	0	— 1
TAMPA BAY	1	0	3	— 4

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Tampa Bay, Bellemare 1 (Namestnikov, Hedman), 3:57.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 2, Columbus, Marchenko 2 (Sillinger, Gudbranson), 3:10.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Tampa Bay, Point 16 (Kucherov, Hagel), 9:02. 4, Tampa Bay, Hagel 9 (Kucherov, Hedman), 13:36. 5, Tampa Bay, Hagel 10 (Cole, Kucherov), 17:19 (en).
SHOTS ON GOAL

COLUMBUS	6	11	8	— 25
TAMPA BAY	12	8	9	— 29

Power-play opportunities: Columbus 0 of 1; Tampa Bay 0 of 3. **Goalies:** Columbus, Tarasov 2-4-1 (28 shots-25 saves). Tampa Bay, Elliott 7-1-0 (25-24). **A:** 19,092 (19,092). **T:** 2:26.

Ducks 5, Canadiens 2

ANAHEIM	2	0	3	— 5
MONTREAL	0	0	2	— 2

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Anaheim, Terry 12 (Zegras, McTavish), 17:28 (pp). 2, Anaheim, Klingberg 2 (Henrique, Zegras), 17:56.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Montreal, Caufield 17 (Dach, Drouin), 3:11 (pp). 4, Montreal, Caufield 18 (Kovacevic, Harris), 6:37. 5, Anaheim, Klingberg 3 (Vatrano, Strome), 10:55. 6, Anaheim, Henrique 9 (McTavish), 18:32. 7, Anaheim, Vatrano 5 (Silfverberg), 19:51.
SHOTS ON GOAL

ANAHEIM	10	5	17	— 32
MONTREAL	8	12	5	— 25

Power-play opportunities: Anaheim 1 of 2; Montreal 1 of 4. **Goalies:** Anaheim, Dostal 1-1-0 (25 shots-23 saves). Montreal, Allen 9-11-0 (30-27).

Flyers 2, Devils 1

PHILADELPHIA	0	1	1	— 2
NEW JERSEY	1	0	0	— 1

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, New Jersey, Hughes 16 (Hamilton), 4:20 (pp).
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 2, Philadelphia, Laughton 5 (Cates, Sanheim), 4:12 (pp).
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Philadelphia, Konecny 12 (Cates), 11:46.
SHOTS ON GOAL

PHILADELPHIA	7	8	9	— 24
NEW JERSEY	16	14	19	— 49

Power-play opportunities: Philadelphia 1 of 5; New Jersey 1 of 3. **Goalies:** Philadelphia, Hart 9-8-6 (49 shots-48 saves). New Jersey, Vanecek 12-3-2 (24-22).

Hurricanes 3, Kraken 2

SEATTLE	0	1	1	— 2
CAROLINA	2	1	0	— 3

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Carolina, Svechnikov 16, 10:10. 2, Carolina, Stepan 1 (de Haan, Drury), 17:16.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Carolina, Noesen 4, 2:08 (ps). 4, Seattle, Donato 5 (Gourde, Soucy), 11:26.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 5, Seattle, Sprong 7 (Tanev, Borgen), 9:14.
SHOTS ON GOAL

SEATTLE	4	7	6	— 17
CAROLINA	14	13	12	— 39

Power-play opportunities: Seattle 0 of 2; Carolina 0 of 2. **Goalies:** Seattle, Grubauer 2-5-1 (39 shots-36 saves). Carolina, Kochetkov 8-1-4 (17-15).

Rangers 3, Maple Leafs 1

TORONTO	1	0	0	— 1
N.Y. RANGERS	1	1	1	— 3

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, N.Y. Rangers, Chytil 7 (Lafreniere, Kakko), 3:52 (pp). 2, Toronto, Bunting 7 (Timmins, Kampf), 14:06.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 3, N.Y. Rangers, Vesey 4 (Trocheck, Miller), 15:33.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 4, N.Y. Rangers, Vesey 5 (Trocheck, Trouba), 18:47 (en).
SHOTS ON GOAL

TORONTO	9	4	10	— 23
N.Y. RANGERS	9	6	6	— 21

Power-play opportunities: Toronto 0 of 3; N.Y. Rangers 1 of 1. **Goalies:** Toronto, Murray 7-2-2 (20 shots-18 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Shesterkin 15-4-4 (23-22).

Penguins 4, Panthers 2

PITTSBURGH	0	2	2	— 4
FLORIDA	1	0	1	— 2

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Florida, Lomberg 4 (E.Staal, Montour), 5:30.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 2, Pittsburgh, Letang 2 (Poehling, Rust), 4:17 (sh). 3, Pittsburgh, Guentzel 14 (Malkin, Letang), 12:42 (pp).
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 4, Pittsburgh, Malkin 10 (Crosby, Rakell), 8:05 (pp). 5, Florida, Reinhart 9 (Verhaeghe), 10:14. 6, Pittsburgh, Guentzel 15 (McGinn, Crosby), 18:42 (en).
SHOTS ON GOAL

PITTSBURGH	10	12	17	— 39
FLORIDA	11	18	5	— 34

Power-play opportunities: Pittsburgh 2 of 3; Florida 0 of 3. **Goalies:** Pittsburgh, Jarry 14-3-3 (34 shots-32 saves). Florida, Bobrovsky 6-9-1 (38-35). **A:** 14,538 (19,250). **T:** 2:33.

Kings 3, Bruins 2 (SO)

LOS ANGELES	0	0	2	1	— 3
BOSTON	0	2	0	0	— 2

LOS ANGELES WON SHOOTOUT 3-2
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Boston, Hall 12 (Grzelcyk, Coyle), 7:53. 2, Boston, Marchand 9 (Pastrnak, McAvoy), 10:02 (pp).
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Los Angeles, Kempe 11 (Kopitar, Fiala), 8:29. 4, Los Angeles, Kempe 12 (Fiala, Doughty), 17:50 (pp).
SHOOTOUT
Los Angeles 3 (Vilardi G, Kempe G, Fiala NG, Kopitar NG, Kaliyev NG, Danault NG, Moore G), Boston 2 (Coyle G, DeBrusk G, Pastrnak NG, Marchand NG, Krejci NG, Hall NG, Bergeron NG).
SHOTS ON GOAL

LOS ANGELES	10	8	8	4	— 30
BOSTON	11	10	15	1	— 37

Power-play opportunities: Los Angeles 1 of 6; Boston 1 of 6. **Goalies:** Los Angeles, Copley 3-1-0 (35 shots-33 saves). Boston, Ullmark 17-1-1 (30-28). **A:** 17,850 (17,565). **T:** 2:46.

Jets 2, Predators 1 (OT)

NASHVILLE	1	0	0	0	— 1
WINNIPEG	1	0	0	1	— 2

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Nashville, Forsberg 9 (Duchene, Granlund), 9:04. 2, Winnipeg, DeMelo 1 (Morrissey, Connor), 15:24.
OVERTIME
Scoring: 3, Winnipeg, Connor 12 (Lowry, Morrissey), 3:31.
SHOTS ON GOAL

NASHVILLE	6	8	11	1	— 26
WINNIPEG	10	20	10	2	— 42

Power-play opportunities: Nashville 0 of 3; Winnipeg 0 of 4. **Goalies:** Nashville, Saros 9-8-4 (42 shots-39 saves). Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 15-7-1 (27-25). **A:** 13,949 (15,321). **T:** 2:32.

Golden Knights 4, Blackhawks 1

VEGAS	1	1	2	— 4
CHICAGO	0	0	1	— 1

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Vegas, Stephenson 7 (Marchessault, Stone), 14:41 (pp).
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 2, Vegas, Smith 13 (Karlsson), 3:56 (sh).
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Vegas, Kessel 6 (Miromanov, Karlsson), 8:08. 4, Chicago, Raddysh 9 (Toews, S.Jones), 16:06. 5, Vegas, Smith 14 (Marchessault), 19:30 (en).
SHOTS ON GOAL

VEGAS	12	4	9	— 25
CHICAGO	7	7	10	— 24

Power-play opportunities: Vegas 1 of 1; Chicago 0 of 2. **Goalies:** Vegas, Thompson 14-7-0 (24 shots-23 saves). Chicago, Soderblom 2-9-2 (24-21). **A:** 15,911 (19,717). **T:** 2:13.

Sabres 4, Avalanche 2

BUFFALO	2	1	1	— 4
COLORADO	0	0	2	— 2

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Buffalo, Thompson 24 (Clague, Mittelstadt), 0:54. 2, Buffalo, Tuch 15 (Dahlin, Thompson), 7:08 (pp).
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Buffalo, Dahlin 10 (Olofsson, Jost), 17:11.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 4, Colorado, Rantanen 20 (Lehkonen, Nichushkin), 8:20. 5, Colorado, Rodrigues 7 (Makar, Nichushkin), 18:38. 6, Buffalo, Cozens 11, 19:02 (en).
SHOTS ON GOAL

BUFFALO	11	9	1	— 21
COLORADO	12	12	17	— 41

Power-play opportunities: Buffalo 1 of 2; Colorado 0 of 2. **Goalies:** Buffalo, Luukkonen 4-3-1 (41 shots-39 saves). Colorado, Georgiev 11-6-2 (20-17).

Blues 4, Oilers 3 (SO)

ST. LOUIS	1	0	2	1	— 4
EDMONTON	1	1	1	0	— 3

ST. LOUIS WON SHOOTOUT 1-0
FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Edmonton, Hyman 14 (Barrie, Draisaitl), 1:03 (pp). 2, St. Louis, Kyrou 11 (Buchnevich, Schenn), 6:47.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Edmonton, McDavid 27 (Barrie, Skinner), 4:42 (pp).
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 4, Edmonton, Yamamoto 2 (Nugent-Hopkins, Barrie), 10:36. 5, St. Louis, Thomas 7 (Kyrou, Barbashev), 11:25. 6, St. Louis, Tarasenko 9 (Kyrou), 19:40 (sh).
SHOOTOUT
St. Louis 1 (Kyrou G, Tarasenko NG), Edmonton 0 (Nugent-Hopkins NG, McDavid NG, Draisaitl NG).
SHOTS ON GOAL

ST. LOUIS	5	12	12	3	— 32
EDMONTON	10	5	11	1	— 27

Power-play opportunities: St. Louis 0 of 4; Edmonton 2 of 5. **Goalies:** St. Louis, Binnington 11-11-1 (27 shots-24 saves). Edmonton, Skinner 9-7-1 (32-29). **A:** 17,550 (18,641). **T:** 2:32.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

Boston Red Sox: Agreed to terms with OF Masataka Yoshida on a five-year contract. Designated INF Jeter Downs for assignment.
Baltimore Orioles: Agreed to terms with INF/OF Adam Frazier on a one-year contract.
Cleveland Indians: Agreed to terms with C Mike Zunino on a one-year contract.
Houston Astros: Named Tommy Kawamura game planning coach. Agreed to terms with SS Jhon Diaz, Cristopfer Gonzales and RHP Jank Pichardo on minor league contracts.
Texas Rangers: Agreed to terms with LHP Angel Anazco, C Danell Figueroa and SS Aniel Medoza on minor league contracts.
Toronto Blue Jays: Agreed to terms with OF Kevin Kiermaier on a one-year contract.
Arizona Diamondbacks: Agreed to terms with RHP Scott McGough on a two-year contract. Designated LHP Tyler Gilbert for assignment.

NFL

Detroit Lions: Signed CB Khalil Dorsey to the practice squad.
Indianapolis Colts: Signed DT McTelvin Agim to the practice squad. Released WR Robert Foster from the practice squad.
Las Vegas Raiders: Waived G Lester Cotton from injured reserve.
New York Giants: Signed DT Jack Heflin to the practice squad. Placed OLB Elerson Smith on injured reserve. Signed DE Ryder Anderson.
New York Jets: Waived DB Will Parks.
Tennessee Titans: Designated DB Lonnie Johnson to return to practice from injured reserve.

NHL

Buffalo Sabres: Acquired D Joseph Cecconi from Dallas in exchange for D Oskari Laaksonen.
Detroit Red Wings: Reassigned D Eemil Viro from Toledo (ECHL) to Grand Rapids (AHL).
Florida Panthers: Recalled C Aleksi Heponiemi from Charlotte (AHL).
Los Angeles Kings: Signed F Trevor Moore to a five-year contract extension.
Philadelphia Flyers: Recalled C Olle Lycksell from Lehigh Valley (AHL).
San Jose Sharks: Reassigned G Strauss Mann from San Jose (AHL) to Wichita (ECHL).
Toronto Maple Leafs: Placed D Axel Rindell on unconditional waivers.
Washington Capitals: Recalled D Lucas Johansen from Hershey (AHL).

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Jackson Hospital & Clinic, Inc. is seeking BC/BE Gastroenterologists. Must have M.D.; completion of U.S. Fellowship training in Gastroenterology; and possess AL medical license. Loc: Montgomery, AL. If interested, email resume to: **kelin.penney@jackson.org.**

BC/BE OB/GYN
Jackson Hospital & Clinic, Inc. is seeking a BC/BE OB/GYN. Must have M.D.; completion of U.S. Residency training in OB/GYN; and possess AL medical license. Location: Montgomery, AL. If interested, email resume to: **kelin.penney@jackson.org.**

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820 Official Notices

ABC LICENSE: Virginia Syler trading as Guapo's of Merrifield, Inc., 3052 Gate House Plaza, Falls Church, VA 22042, County of Fairfax, VA. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Mixed Beverage License and Catering license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Date notie posted at establishment 12/02/2022. **Note: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.**

ANNUAL REPORT for the Glickfield Family Foundation, Inc. is available at its principal office for inspection during regular business hours by any citizen who wishes inspection within180 days of this notice. The address and phone number of the Foundation's principal office is Karen Spurlock, 725 Rockville Pike, Rockville Maryland 20852, 301-768-4585.

825 Bids & Proposals

The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) is soliciting proposals for Quality Assurance Quality Control Services, No. DCRL-2023-R-0021. The solicitation is published in the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) Electronic Solicitation System (eSourcing). Reponses are due January 5, 2023. To register: 1) Click on www.ocp.dc.gov, 2) Click on Vendor Registration 3) Click on the eSourcing Link and 4) Click on Register as new Vendor.

Should you have questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Danyel Riley, Contract Specialist, danyel.riley@dc.gov

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840 Trustees Sale - DC

Pardo & Drazin, LLC
Russell S. Drazin, Attorney
4400 Jenifer Street, NW, Suite 2
Washington, DC 20015
202-223-7900

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

5819 8th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20011
Lot 0036 in Square 3744

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust ("Deed of Trust") dated July 1, 2021 and recorded on July 23, 2021 as Instrument No. 2021099723 from Capitals Areas Properties LLC, as grantor, to John D. Eubank and Timothy E. Lewis, as trustees, for the benefit of Commercial Lending, LLC, as beneficiary, securing that certain Commercial Deed of Trust Note dated July 1, 2021 in the principal amount of $400,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and following the mailing and recordation of a Deed of Appointment of Substitute Trustee removing John D. Eubank and Timothy E. Lewis as trustees and appointing Russell S. Drazin ("Substitute Trustee") as successor trustee, an Affidavit of Non-Residential Mortgage Foreclosure, and a Notice of Foreclosure Sale of Real Property or Condominium Unit, at the request of the current noteholder, Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction at the office of Harvey West Auctioneers, Inc., 5335 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 440, Washington, DC 20015, **(Please Note: In the event that the office building at 5335 Wisconsin Ave. NW is closed, all scheduled Washington, DC sales will take place at the front entrance door of the Chevy Chase Pavilion)** on

DECEMBER 20, 2022 AT 2:00 PM

ALL THAT LOT OF GROUND AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON (if any) situated in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, known as 5819 8th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20011, and more fully described in the Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS" condition, with no warranty of any kind, and subject to conditions, restrictions, agreements, liens, and encumbrances of record affecting the same – except those encumbrances of record that are extinguished by operation of District of Columbia law by virtue of the foreclosure of the Deed of Trust.

Purchaser will take title to the property subject to all real estate taxes, water and sewer charges, and any other municipal or utility charges senior in priority to the Deed of Trust, if any. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $50,000.00 by cashier's check will be required of purchaser at the time and place of sale. Purchaser shall settle within thirty (30) days of sale. TIME SHALL BE OF THE ESSENCE WITH RESPECT TO SETTLEMENT BY PURCHASER. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash or certified funds at settlement. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money from the date of sale to the date of settlement at the applicable interest rate set forth in the debt instrument secured by the Deed of Trust. Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of all settlement costs.

The noteholder and its affiliates, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit or to pay interest.

In the event that purchaser does not settle as required for any reason, purchaser shall be in default. Upon such default, the deposit shall be forfeited to Substitute Trustee and all of the expenses of this sale (including legal fees and costs, and full commission on the gross sale price) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. Substitute Trustee may resell the property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser. The defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property. Defaulting purchaser shall be liable to Substitute Trustee for legal fees and costs incurred by Substitute Trustee in connection with such default.

If Substitute Trustee is unable to settle as set forth herein, purchaser's sole remedy at law and in equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit and the sale shall be considered null and void and of no effect whatsoever.

Substitute Trustee reserves the right, in Substitute Trustee's sole discretion, to reject any and all bids, to withdraw the property from sale at any time before or at the auction, to extend the time to receive bids, to waive or modify the deposit requirement, to waive or modify the requirement that interest be paid on the unpaid purchase money, and/or to extend the period of time for settlement.

Additional terms may be announced at the sale. The successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to Substitute Trustee a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

Russell S. Drazin, Substitute Trustee

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, INC.
5335 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Ste 440
Washington, DC 20015
202-483-4567
www.hwestauctions.com

December 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 2022 12404435

Recipe finder
Search our database of tested recipes by ingredient or name.
washingtonpost.com/recipes
The Washington Post
S0115-2x2

850 Montgomery County

LAW OFFICES
Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker, P.A.
12505 Park Potomac Avenue, 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 230-5241

File No. 126618.00010

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY
935C Russell Avenue, Suite 5306
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
(the "Property")

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Credit Line Deed of Trust (the "Deed of Trust") from Allen J. Prettyman to Deborah A. Morgan and Gregory A. Farno, Trustees, dated September 11, 2019 and recorded in Book 64204, at Page 157, among the Land Records of **Montgomery County**, Maryland, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction at the Montgomery County Courthouse, located at 50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850, at the Court House Door, on

December 20, 2022 at 11:30 AM

All that Fee-Simple lot of ground and the improvements thereon, if any, identified as Tax ID No. 09-02644672 and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The Property and improvements, if any, thereupon will be sold in "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $7,000.00 by certified check. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 6.00% from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Trustee. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges and ground rent, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale forward. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the Property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the Property from the date of sale forward. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale.

If the Trustee is unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Trustee for application against all expenses, attorneys' fees and the full commission on the sale price of the above-scheduled foreclosure sale. In the event of default, all expenses of this sale (including attorneys' fees and the full commission of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustee may then re-advertise and resell the Property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser or may avail himself of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser without re-selling the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the Property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustee and secured party for reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale.

Benjamin P. Smith,
Substitute Trustee

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797
www.hwestauctions.com

December 2, 9, 16, 2022 12403857

850 Montgomery County

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

James E. Clarke, et. al.
Substitute Trustees
Plaintiffs

V.

Terrell B. Walker AKA Terrell Walker and Vernetta L. Walker
Defendant(s)

Civil No. 481045V

NOTICE PURSUANT TO MD RULE 14-215 (A)

ORDERED, by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland, this **30 day of November, 2022,** that the foreclosure sale of the property described in the deed of trust docketed herein and located at **2908 Greencastle Road, Burtonsville, MD 20866** made and reported by James E. Clarke, Christine M. Drexel, Brian Thomas and Jason Murphy, Substitute Trustees, Be RATIFIED and CONFIRMED, unless cause to the contrary be shown on or before the **30 day of December 2022;** provided a copy of this Order be inserted in THE WASHINGTON POST, once in each of three (3) successive weeks before the **30 day of December, 2022.**

The Report of Sale states the amount of the sale at **$762,822.53.**

BY THE COURT:
Karen A. Bushell
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Orlans 18-700329

December 9, 16, 23, 2022
12405991

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850 Montgomery County

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

ERIC D. VANDELINDE
Substitute Trustee
Plaintiff

V.

ESTATE OF SHIRLEY P. LYLES
Defendant

Civil No.: 487617V

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby issued by the Circuit Court of MONTGOMERY COUNTY this **30th day of November, 2022**, that the sale of the property, **9600 Wigatman Road Gaitherburg, MD 20879** mentioned in these proceedings, made and reported by Eric D. Vandelinde, Substitute Trustee, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the **30th day of December, 2022,** provided a copy of this Notice be inserted in The Washington Post, a newspaper published in ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, once in each of three successive weeks before the **30th day of December, 2022.**

The Report states the amount of Sale to be **$331,000.00.**

Karen A. Bushell
Clerk, Circuit Court for
Montgomery County

December 9, 16, 23, 2022
12397373

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851 Prince Georges County

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF IMPROVED FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY

1007 Andean Goose Way
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774

Under a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from Charles O. Yambo and Melanie Garcia-Yambo, dated May 15, 2014 and recorded in Liber 36027, Folio 440 among the Land Records of **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY,** Maryland, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No. CAEF22-12965) the Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction in front of the Main Street Entrance at the PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14375 MAIN STREET, UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND 20772, on

DECEMBER 29, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

All of that property, with the improvements thereon, having a street address of 1007 Andean Goose Way, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774, and being more particularly described as follows: LOT 4, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SUBDIVISION ENTITLED "PLAT 3 SECTION 9, PERRYWOOD", AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN PLAT BOOK VJ 189, AT PLAT 80.

Together with all improvements thereupon and all rights, alleys, ways, waters, easements, privileges, appurtenances and advantages belonging or appertaining thereunto. Subject to easements, restrictions, and covenants of record, if any.
TAX ID: 03-3311685

The property will be sold in "AS IS" condition, with the purchaser responsible for any and all housing or zoning code violations. The property shall be conveyed subject to all easements, conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record which are senior or superior to the aforementioned Deed of Trust, if any, with no warranty of any kind, and to the rights of any party occupying the premises.

Terms of Sale: The terms of the sale require a non-refundable deposit made through a certified check or a cashier's check in the amount of $30,000.00 at the time and place of sale, except that no deposit shall be required of the present beneficiary of the Deed of Trust which is the subject of this foreclosure. NO CASH DEPOSITS ACCEPTED. The balance shall be required at the time of settlement, except that if the present beneficiary of the Deed of Trust is the purchaser, a credit will be allowed for the debt secured by the Deed of Trust. Interest at the rate of 7% per annum shall be paid on the unpaid purchase money from the date of sale to the date of settlement.

Settlement will take place within thirty (30) days after final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court of Prince George's County, Maryland, time being of the essence. In the event that the purchaser(s) fails to go to settlement as required, the entire deposit may be forfeited and the property resold by the Substitute Trustees at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser, or the Substitute Trustees may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser.

The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by the Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property.

Costs of the documentary stamps, transfer taxes, document preparation, title insurance and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Risk of loss or damage to the property will be upon the purchaser from the date and time of sale.

If the Substitute Trustee(s) are unable for any reason to convey insurable, good and marketable title the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the purchaser's deposit without interest. Upon the refund of the deposit, the sale to the purchaser shall be void, and the purchaser shall have no further claims against the Substitute Trustees.

JOHN P. VAN BEEK
HOLLY A. CURRIER
Substitute Trustees
510 King Street, Suite 416
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-3260
jvanbeek@goldmanvanbeek.com

December 9, 16, 23, 2022
12406044

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851 Prince Georges County

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MARYLAND

Genevieve Johnson, et al,
Substitute Trustee,
Plaintiff,

v.
THOMAS J. KOKOLIS, AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF LOUIS E. HANKINS, et al,
Defendants.

Case No. CAEF22-07110

NOTICE

Notice is hereby issued this **8th day of December, 2022,** that the sale of the property in this case, **6600 SEAT PLEASANT DRIVE CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743** reported by David Williamson, Attorney for the Substitute Trustee, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary be shown on or before the **9th day of January, 2023**, provided a copy of this Notice be inserted in The Washington Post, a newspaper published in PRINCE GEORGE'S County, Maryland, once in each of three (3) successive weeks on or before the **9th day of January, 2023**

The report states the amount of sale to be **$163,000.00.**

Mahasin El Amin
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Prince George's County, MD

December 16, 23, 30, 2022
12407574

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Brennan Ferguson, et al.
Substitute Trustees
Plaintiffs,

v.

GLORIA RUBIO, et al.
Defendant(s)

Case No. CAEF19-23638

NOTICE

Notice is hereby issued this **8th day of December, 2022**, that the sale of the property in this case, **9226 Limestone Place, College Park, Maryland 20740,** reported by Brennan Ferguson, Christine N. Johnson, Robert A. Oliveri, Melissa Alcocer, Substitute Trustees, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary be shown on or before the **9th day of January, 2023,** provided a copy of this Notice be inserted in The Washington Post, a newspaper published in Prince George's County, Maryland, once in each of three (3) successive weeks on or before the **9th day of January, 2023**.

The report states the amount of sale to be **$101,236.00**.

Mahasin El Amin
Clerk of the Circuit Court
for Prince Georges County, MD

December 16, 23, 30, 2022
12407575

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

John Ansell, et al.
Substitute Trustees
Plaintiffs,

v.

ALVIN BASS,
Defendant

Case No. CAEF22-02183

NOTICE

Notice is hereby issued this **8th day of December, 2022**, that the sale of the property in this case, **9707 Muirfield Dr, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772,** reported by John Ansell, Jeremy B. Wilkins, Robert A. Oliveri, Amanda Driscole, Paul Heinmuller, Substitute Trustees, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary be shown on or before the **9th day of January, 2023,** provided a copy of this Notice be inserted in The Washington Post, a newspaper published in Prince George's County, Maryland, once in each of three (3) successive weeks on or before the **9th day of January, 2023.**

The report states the amount of sale to be **$320,000.00.**

Mahasin El Amin
Clerk of the Circuit Court
for Prince Georges County, MD

December 16, 23, 30, 2022
12407576

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Diane S. Rosenberg
Mark D. Meyer
Maurice O'Brien
Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway,
Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814

Substitute Trustees
Plaintiff(s)

v.

LaJuan Poole
5813 Dewey Street
Cheverly, MD 20875

Defendant(s)

Case No. CAEF20-05664
consolidated with CAEF18-14792
and CAL-19-34146

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given this **8th** day of **December, 2022**, by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, that the sale of **5813 Dewey Street, Cheverly, MD 20875,** made and reported, will be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the **9th day of January, 2023**, provided a copy of this notice be inserted in a daily newspaper printed in said County, once in each of three successive weeks before the **9th day of January, 2023**. The Report of Sale states the amount of the foreclosure sale price to be **$365,500.00.**

Mahasin El Amin #597
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Prince George's County, Maryland

December 16, 23, 30, 2022
12407045

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851 Prince Georges County

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Diane S. Rosenberg
Mark D. Meyer
Maurice O'Brien
Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway,
Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814

Substitute Trustees
Plaintiff(s)

v.
Jonathan A Ramos
4703 Old Soper Road, Unit 652
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Defendant(s)

Case No.CAEF22-12955

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given this **8th** day of **December, 2022,** by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, that the sale of **4703 Old Soper Road, Unit 652, Camp Springs, MD 20746,** made and reported, will be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the **9th day of January, 2023,** provided a copy of this notice be inserted in a daily newspaper printed in said County, once in each of three successive weeks before the **9th day of January, 2023.** The Report of Sale states the amount of the foreclosure sale price to be **$159,695.00.**

Mahasin El Amin #597
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Prince George's County, Maryland

December 16, 23, 30, 2022
12407046

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Diane S. Rosenberg
Mark D. Meyer
Maurice O'Brien
Rosenberg & Associates, LLC
4340 East West Highway,
Suite 600
Bethesda, MD 20814

Substitute Trustees
Plaintiff(s)

v.

Margareth J. Weavr
Tyanthony D. Weaver
14906 Dennington Drive
Bowie, MD 20721

Defendant(s)

Case No.CAEF14-15643

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given this **8th** day of **December, 2022,** by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, that the sale of **14906 Dennington Drive, Bowie, MD 20721,** made and reported, will be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the **9th day of January, 2023**, provided a copy of this notice be inserted in a daily newspaper printed in said County, once in each of three successive weeks before the **9th day of January, 2023.** The Report of Sale states the amount of the foreclosure sale price to be **$560,000.00.**

Mahasin El Amin #597
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Prince George's County, Maryland

December 16, 23, 30, 2022
12407047

856 Frederick County

CIRCUIT COURT FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND
100 West Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
Clerk of the Court: (301) 600-1976
Assignment Office: (301) 600-2015

Case Number: C-10-CV-22-000039
Other Reference Numbers:

WILLIAM SAVAGE, ET AL.

VS.

YAZIR SORIANO

Date: 12/14/2022

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby issued by the Circuit Court for Frederick County this **14th day of December, 2022** that the sale made and reported by William Savage for the sale of the property described in these proceedings

4812 Clarendon Dr,
Frederick, MD 21703

be ratified and confirmed thirty (30) days from the date of this Notice, unless cause to the contrary be shown, provided a copy of this Notice be inserted in some Newspaper published in this County, once in each of three (3) successive weeks.

The report states the amount of the sale to be **$469,000.00**.

Sandra K. Dalton
Clerk of the Circuit Court

December 16, 23, 30, 2022
12407587

870 Arlington County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF

1700 CLARENDON BLVD. #112, ARLINGTON, VA 22209

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of $417,000.00, with an annual interest rate of 3.250000% dated June 20, 2013, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the **County of Arlington** as Deed Book 4701, Page 788, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the County of Arlington, at the front of the Circuit Court building for the County of Arlington located at 1425 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia on **February 22, 2023 at 3:00 PM,** the property with improvements to wit:

GASLIGHT SQUARE CONDOMINIUM PHASE 1 UNIT 112 PKSP P-120 SB 112

Tax Map No. 17-008-010

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 22-292133.

PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, 10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200, Manassas, Virginia 20109 (703) 449-5800.

December 16, 2022
January 18, 25, 2023 12407546

MD • PR. GEORGE'S CO.
Houses

CAPITAL HEIGHTS, MD 5 BR, 3 BTH, close to metro, $1900/mo, No Sec 8, 301-717-6965

MARYLAND
Roommates

ADELPHI / HYATTSVILLE - Room for rent, share BA. $600/mo util incl. No pets. Avail now. **240-413-5316**

Fort Washington, MD- Nr Nat'l Harbor. Private bedrm. kitchenette. All util, cable & int incl. VETS WELCOME. Starts at $875/mo. **703-362-0505**

FORT WASHINGTON - Lg house to share. Free cable. Close to MGM. W/D. $150/wk Special. **240-882-8973**

Hyattsville lg rm walking to bus, metro, market, laundry, prkg st, NS $600/mo, $600 dep. 240-330-3491

Laurel Room for rent furn or unfurn, no smoking, pref F, must have trans $500/mo plu sec dep, 240-708-3893

MARYLAND
Roommates

Suitland Room for rent, quiet place, close to mall & bus route, $700 all utils incl. 240-883-4633

245 Electronics

DISH Network. **$64.99 for 190 Channels!** Blazing Fast Internet, $19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a **FREE $100 Visa Gift Card. FREE** Voice Remote. **FREE** HD DVR. **FREE** Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-407-6870.

265 Home & Garden

BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Superior quality bath and shower systems at AFFORDABLE PRICES! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 877-738-0991.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-566-3227.

280 Musical Instruments

Collectors Records Albums for sale, Christmas records by Johnny Mathis, B. Streisand, Englebert Humper Dinck Andy Williams, Bing Crosby, Julie Andrews, Sound of Music, My Fair Lady, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Hank Williams, Kenny Rogers, Nat King Cole, Burl Ives, Greece-John Travolta, Orchestra, Monto Vani and other wide range of Orchestras. Etc. Contact teddyjd@aol.com Call 202-725-6558

355 Garage Sales, VA

CENTREVILLE Large Yard Sale, Sat, Sun 10-3
5208 Kimanna Dr. See pics
www.caringtransitionsnova.com

358 Moving Sale

Moving sale Mahogany Dining rm set, $600. Other pieces available, queen BR set, from Haggerty's, 7 pc asking $600. Oak file cabinets, 2 veritable, 1 lateral, like new cond, $60. Must move yourself. 301-908-5457

610 Dogs for Sale

AKC Lab Retriever Pups, Choc, black, yellow, vet checked, up to date on deworming and 1st shots, Call /text 540-239-0775 after 5pm

AKC Reg, Labrador Puppies, shots, wormed, microchipped, black, yellow, choc, $700. Silver and charcoal $1000 301-616-5353

AKITA PUPS,
1 6 month old male $200
1 4 month old, female $300
301-633-7372 Cliff

BORDER COLLIE PUPPIES, 2 males, 2 females, red and white ABCA Reg, rough coats, ready Xmas week $800 540-937-4520

CKC Standard Poodle Puppies,ready 1/5, Call 304-994-1334

COCKAPOO Avail in buff, cream, black and black and white spotted, great temperament, sound health, will hold until Christmas or after the holiday rush, reservations being accepted now email drkellyb@aol.com or Text 540-808-8042

COCKAPOO Pups, 12 weeks to 9 months old, available in buff, cream or black, great temperament, non shedding, fully vaccinated, 2 year health guarantee. Very well socialized. email drkellyb@aol.com or Text 540-808-8042

French Bull Dog Pups, M/F, shots, vet checked. 8 weeks old. Ready Christmas week, $3500 neg. 410-271-1433

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS Pure Bred- AKC, Vet checked. Great watch & family dogs. Starting at $675 Born 9/2 **301-481-4943**

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Goldendoodle Puppies F1B, 8 weeks old, ready to go, adorable delightful Xmas gift, $750/obo. Call or text 540-607-8312

Labrador and Collie mixed Puppies for Sale, born 9/28, $200 or best offer. 540-908-8473

MALTESE PUPS - Pure bred, white, 2 males left, 12 weeks old, Ready now, Registered. Asking $800 . 571-398-9366

Purebred Chihuahua Puppies, will be ready just in time for Christmas 12/20. Beautiful, spoiled and ready to love. $800 Text 301-991-5447, or call 301-992-2838.

STANDARD POODLE PUPPIES AKC, pedigree, all colors, $500 deposit. Text for more info 240-532-9921

Standard red poodles for sale in Gordonsville, Virginia. AKC, tested, microchip, vet, certified, health guaranteed. 540-223-0406

YORKIES Make your loved one happy this Xmas w/ a beautiful healthy active CKC. M/F, vet check, wormed, shots. $1500 Call/txt 240-817-4328



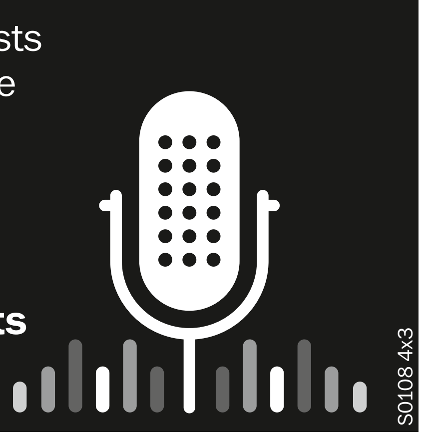
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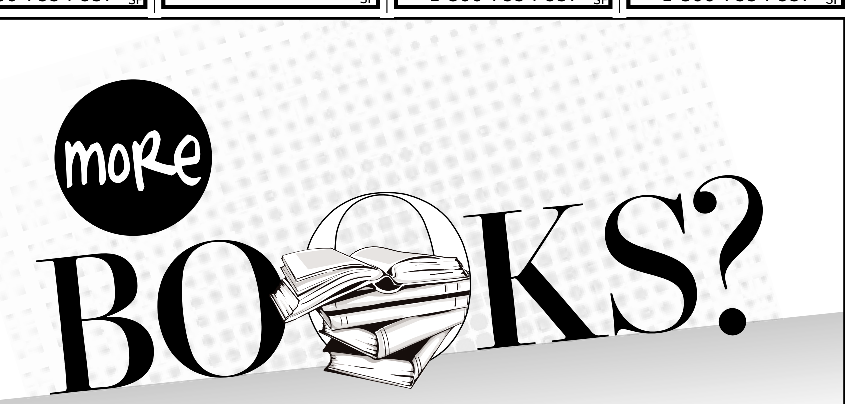
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851 Prince Georges County

TRUSTEE'S SALE

4 Norair Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20785

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 4 Norair Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20785. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated December 4, 2008, and recorded in Liber 30915 at Page 117 among the land records of the **County of Prince George's**, in the original principal amount of $492,000.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S, at the front of the Duval Wing of the Courthouse Complex located at 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, on **December 27, 2022 at 2:00 PM**, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 18-2073336

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveyancing, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 21-289188.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, 10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200, Manassas, Virginia 20109 (410) 769-9797

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797
www.hwestauctions.com

December 9, 16, 23, 2022 12402316

853 Calvert County

MCMICHAEL TAYLOR GRAY, LLC
11900 Parklawn Drive, Suite 320
Rockville, Maryland 20852
(470) 480-1820

TRUSTEE'S SALE

642 Silver Rock Road
Lusby, MD 20657

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated December 10, 2009 and recorded in Deed Book 3444 at Page 495 among the Land Records of **Calvert County**, Maryland, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction at the Calvert County Courthouse located at 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD, on

December 20, 2022 AT 9:45 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in Calvert County, Maryland, located at the above address and more fully described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust (the "Property").

TAX ID#: 01-125842

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $20,000.00 by cashier's/certified check or such other form as the Substitute Trustee may allow, in their sole discretion, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without either express or implied warranty of any kind and subject to all conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 4% from the date of sale to the date funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges and ground rent, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale forward. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the Property. If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey title for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law and equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit without interest. If the Purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited to the Substitute Trustees for application against all expenses, attorney's fees and the full commission on the sale price of the above-scheduled foreclosure sale. In the event of default, all expenses of this sale (including attorney's fees and the full commission on the gross sale price of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustees may then re-advertise and resell the Property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser or may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser without re-selling the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the Property by said defaulting purchaser and the defaulting purchaser shall be liable to the Trustees and secured party for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses incurred in connection with all litigation involving the Property or the proceeds of the resale. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including, but not limited to, determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed; forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into; or the loan was reinstated or paid off. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void and Purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest.

Diana Theologou, Gregory Thorne, Adrian Jacobs, Brian Campbell, Christine Cotton, Substitute Trustees
File No.: 22-002227

HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, LLC
300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
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December 2, 9, 16, 2022 12402961

855 Charles County

BWW Law Group, LLC
6003 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 961-6555

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS THEREON

8525 ROUND HILL RD.
CHARLOTTE HALL, MD 20622

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust dated January 7, 2019, recorded in Liber 10509, Folio 460 among the Land Records of **Charles County**, MD, with an original principal balance of $130,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the Circuit Court for Charles County, 200 Charles St., La Plata, MD 20646, (Sale will be held in the breezeway between the Circuit Court and the District Court), on

DECEMBER 20, 2022 AT 12:55 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND, together with any buildings or improvements thereon located in Charles County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

The property, and any improvements thereon, will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit of $13,000 in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. Balance of the purchase price, together with interest on the unpaid purchase money at the current rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Sub. Trustees, payable in cash within ten days of final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court. There will be no abatement of interest due to the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE FOR THE PURCHASER. Adjustment of all real property taxes, including agricultural taxes, if applicable, and any and all public and/or private charges or assessments, to the extent such amounts survive foreclosure sale, including water/sewer, ground rent and front foot benefit charges, to be adjusted to date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. Purchaser is responsible for any recapture of homestead tax credit. All transfer taxes and recordation taxes shall be paid by Purchaser. The purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the ground rent escrow, if required. Condominium fees and/or homeowners association dues, if any, shall be assumed by the purchaser from the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property, and assumes risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale. The sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, this sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest. If purchaser fails to settle within ten days of ratification, subject to order of court, purchaser agrees that property will be resold and entire deposit retained by Sub. Trustees as liquidated damages for all losses occasioned by the purchaser's default and purchaser shall have no further liability. The defaulted purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds resulting from said resale even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulted purchaser. Sub. Trustees will convey either marketable or insurable title. If they cannot deliver one or the other, or if ratification of the sale is denied by the Circuit Court for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is return of the deposit without interest. BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDANCE AND WEAR A COVER OVER BOTH NOSE AND MOUTH AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE AUCTION. (Matter No. 356100-1)

PLEASE CONSULT WWW.ALEXCOOPER.COM FOR STATUS OF UPCOMING SALES

Howard N. Bierman, Carrie M. Ward, et. al., Substitute Trustees

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December 2, 9, 16, 2022 12404085

856 Frederick County

Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid & Crane, LLC
11350 McCormick Road, EP 1, Suite 302
Hunt Valley, MD 21031
470-321-7112

TRUSTEES' SALE OF
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS

301 WASHINGTON ST
MIDDLETOWN, MD 21769

Under a power of sale contained in that Deed of Trust dated March 6, 2020, and recorded in Liber 13620, folio 373, of the land records of **FREDERICK COUNTY** , with an original principal balance of $343,561.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the appointed Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction at THE FREDERICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 100 W. PATRICK ST, FREDERICK, MD 21701 ON,

DECEMBER 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND together with any buildings or improvements thereon situated in FREDERICK COUNTY, MD, located at the above address and more fully described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust.

TAX ID# - 03-156885

The property and improvements will be sold in an "AS IS" physical condition without warranty of any kind and subject to all conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, including any condominium or homeowners association assessments pursuant to MD Real Property Article Â§ 11-110 and Â§ 11B-117 .

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of $33,500.00 by cashier's/certified check or such other form as the Substitute Trustee may determine, in their sole discretion, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. The balance of the purchase price together with interest thereon at 3.500% per annum from date of sale to receipt of purchase price by Substitute Trustees must be paid by cashier's check within 10 days after final ratification of sale. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event that additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. All real estate taxes and other public charges and/or assessments to be adjusted as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. If applicable, any condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the date of sale shall be purchaser's responsibility. Purchaser shall pay all transfer, documentary and recording taxes/fees and all other settlement costs. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. Time is of the essence for the purchaser. If purchaser defaults, deposit will be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Substitute Trustees do not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed; forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into; or loan was reinstated or paid off. In any such even this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. File No. (22-027580)

Keith Yacko, David Williamson, Bryson Stephen, Substitute Trustees

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300 E. Joppa Road
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-769-9797
www.hwestauctions.com

December 2, 9, 16, 2022 12402303

Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid & Crane, LLC
11350 McCormick Road, EP 1, Suite 302
Hunt Valley, MD 21031
470-321-7112

TRUSTEES' SALE OF
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY
KNOWN AS

3486 FIRESTONE DR
IJAMSVILLE, MD 21754

Under a power of sale contained in that Deed of Trust dated September 26, 2014, and recorded in Liber 10230, folio 0213, of the land records of **FREDERICK COUNTY** , with an original principal balance of $412,392.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the appointed Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction at THE FREDERICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 100 W. PATRICK ST, FREDERICK, MD 21701 ON,

JANUARY 3, 2023 at 10:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND together with any buildings or improvements thereon situated in FREDERICK COUNTY, MD, located at the above address and more fully described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust.

TAX ID# - 07-204000

The property and improvements will be sold in an "AS IS" physical condition without warranty of any kind and subject to all conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, including any condominium or homeowners association assessments pursuant to MD Real Property Article Â§ 11-110 and Â§ 11B-117 .

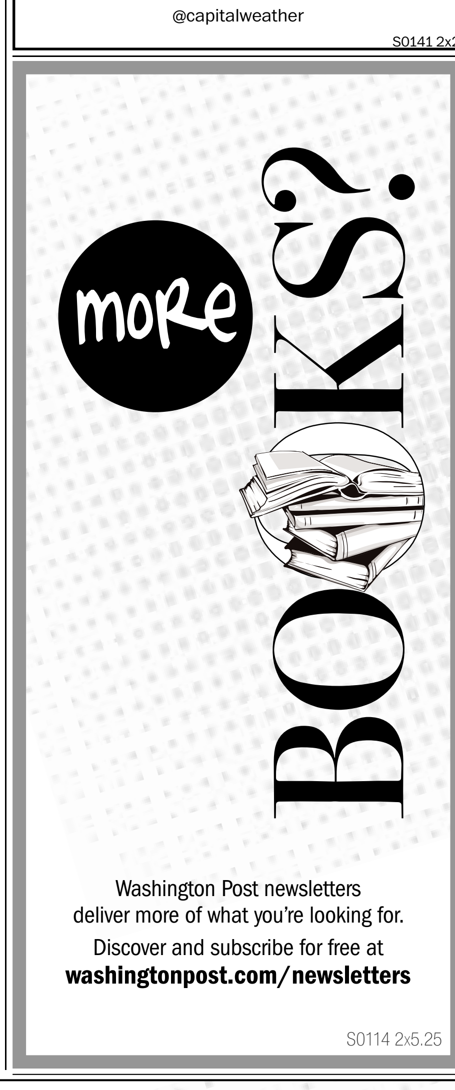
TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of $30,500.00 by cashier's/certified check or such other form as the Substitute Trustee may determine, in their sole discretion, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. The balance of the purchase price together with interest thereon at 4.0% per annum from date of sale to receipt of purchase price by Substitute Trustees must be paid by cashier's check within 10 days after final ratification of sale. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event that additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. All real estate taxes and other public charges and/or assessments to be adjusted as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. If applicable, any condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the date of sale shall be purchaser's responsibility. Purchaser shall pay all transfer, documentary and recording taxes/fees and all other settlement costs. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. Time is of the essence for the purchaser. If purchaser defaults, deposit will be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Substitute Trustees do not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed; forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into; or loan was reinstated or paid off. In any such even this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. File No. (20-038569)

Keith Yacko, David Williamson, Bryson Stephen, Substitute Trustees

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December 16, 23, 30, 2022 12401515





873 Prince William County

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE

9229 Portner Avenue, Manassas, Virginia 20110

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated July 7, 2017, granted by Jennifer Anne Shaw and Robert Douglas Shaw, as grantor and borrower, securing the repayment of a loan in the original principal amount of $392,700.00, which Deed of Trust is recorded on July 10, 2017 among the Land Records of the **Prince William County**, Commonwealth of Virginia as Instrument Number 201707100052140, as the same may be amended from time to time (the "Deed of Trust"), a default having occurred in the payment of that certain Promissory Note dated July 7, 2017 thereby secured and at the request of the holder of said Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the main entrance to the Courthouse for the Circuit Court of Prince William County, Virginia (9311 Lee Ave, Manassas, Virginia 20110) on

January 3, 2023, at 1:00 o'clock P.M.

the Property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address and described as:

The Land referred to herein below is situated in the **COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM**, Commonwealth of Virginia, and is described as follows: All that certain lot containing 2100 square feet, more or less, on Portner Avenue, as more particularly described in Deed Book 1777, Page 875, recorded among the Land Records of Prince William County, Virginia, as more particularly described as follows:

Beginning on the South side of Portner Avenue at the Northeast Corner of the line Marsteller and Lunsford land sold to them by T.B. Whedbee, being 107 feet 6 inches in an Easterly direction from stake on the East side of the alley bounding the said Marsteller and Lunsford land on the West, and running in the Southerly direction with the said Marsteller and Lunsford line 60 feet to Adamson's line; thence in an easterly direction with the Adamson's line 35 feet; thence in a Northerly direction 60 feet to the South side of Portner Avenue, and thence in a Westerly direction along the South side of Portner Avenue 35 feet to the place of beginning, containing 2100 square feet.

Property Address:
9229 Portner Avenue
Manassas, Virginia 20110

Tax Map No.: 101/01 00/ 343/ /

Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions and easements, if any, affecting the aforesaid Property.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of $25,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is less, cashier or certified check, will be required at the time of sale. Settlement shall be by cashier's check or wire transfer of immediately available federal funds and shall occur within thirty (30) days from date of sale, TIME BEING OF THE ESSENCE. The Substitute Trustees reserve the right in their sole discretion (but are under no obligation) to extend the date of settlement as may be necessary to complete arrangements for settlement. The deposit, without interest, shall be applied to the credit of the successful bidder at settlement. The balance of the purchase price over and above the retained deposit, with interest thereon at the note rate then being charged from the date of sale through the date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, will be due at settlement. If the successful bidder fails to complete settlement as aforesaid, the deposit shall be forfeited, and the Substitute Trustees may resell the subject Property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. The Substitute Trustees reserve the right to cancel the sale, postpone the sale or remove any or all portions of the Property from sale at any time before the sale is announced as final for any reason, to reject any and all bids, waive deposit requirements, extend time for settlement, and announce additional terms of sale. Terms of sale announced at the public auction will supersede all advertised terms of sale. Any and all closing or settlement costs, including without limitation the preparation of the Substitute Trustee's deed, settlement and escrow fees and all state, county and local grantor tax, grantee tax, regional congestion relief fee, and WMATA capital fee shall be paid by the successful bidder. In addition, at settlement, the successful bidder shall pay all current and past due assessments, sewer or water charges, and real estate taxes, and any penalties and interest due on any of the foregoing, with respect to the Property, whether covering periods prior to or after the foreclosure sale. The risk of loss or damage to the Property shall be assumed by the successful bidder from and after the bid strike-down at the time of sale. The Substitute Trustees will not deliver possession of the Property to the successful bidder, who shall be solely responsible for obtaining possession of the Property.

The Property and all personal property applicable thereto shall be sold "AS IS, WHERE IS, WITH ALL FAULTS" without any warranty whatsoever express or implied and subject to any and all (i) deeds of trust, judgments, liens, tax liens, lis pendens, and any matters of record (ii) outstanding homeowner association assessments, (iii) existing housing and zoning code violations, (iv) filed or unfiled mechanic's and materialmen's liens, and/or (v) tenants, leasehold interests and other parties in possession, if any.

Neither the Substitute Trustees nor the holder of the Note, nor their respective agents, successors, and assigns, make any representations or warranties with respect to the Property including, without limitation, representations or warranties as to the structural integrity, physical condition, construction, workmanship, materials, habitability, fitness for a particular purpose or merchantability of all or any part of the Property. The purchaser recognizes and agrees that any investigation, examination, or inspection of the Property being sold is within the control of the owner or other parties in possession and their agents and not within the control of the Substitute Trustees, the holder of the Note, or their respective successors or assigns.

Immediately upon the conveyance by the Substitute Trustees of the Property to the purchaser at foreclosure, all duties, liabilities and obligations of the Substitute Trustees, if any, with respect to such Property shall be extinguished. Should Settlement not occur for any reason on the part of the Substitute Trustees, the purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of the deposit without interest.

Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Additional terms may be announced at the sale.

Substitute Trustees: Jung Kim, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1400 Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182 (Tel: 202-900-8595, Email: jkim@offitkurman.com; Alfredo Acin., 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1400 Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182 (Tel: 703-745-1827, Email: aacin@offitkurman.com).

INTERESTED BIDDERS are encouraged to contact Substitute Trustees for additional information and materials concerning the Property; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, all such information and materials will be provided without any representations or warranties whatsoever.

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 2022 12402602



NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
6036 Camerons Ferry Drive
Haymarket, Virginia 20169

In execution of certain liens for unpaid assessments as perfected by the recording of memoranda of liens among the Land Records of the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William ("Land Records") on (i) August 6, 2021 as Instrument Number 202108060092142 and (ii) April 21, 2022 as Instrument Number 202204210031535 ("Liens"), Haymarket Crossing Condominium Unit Owners Association ("Association"), by its appointed Trustee, as identified below, will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder on **January 18, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.**, at the main outside entrance to the Courthouse of the Circuit Court of Prince William County at 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, Virginia 20110, the real property and improvements, along with any limited common elements appurtenant thereto with the street address of **6036 Camerons Ferry Drive, Haymarket, Virginia 20169** ("Property") and briefly described as:

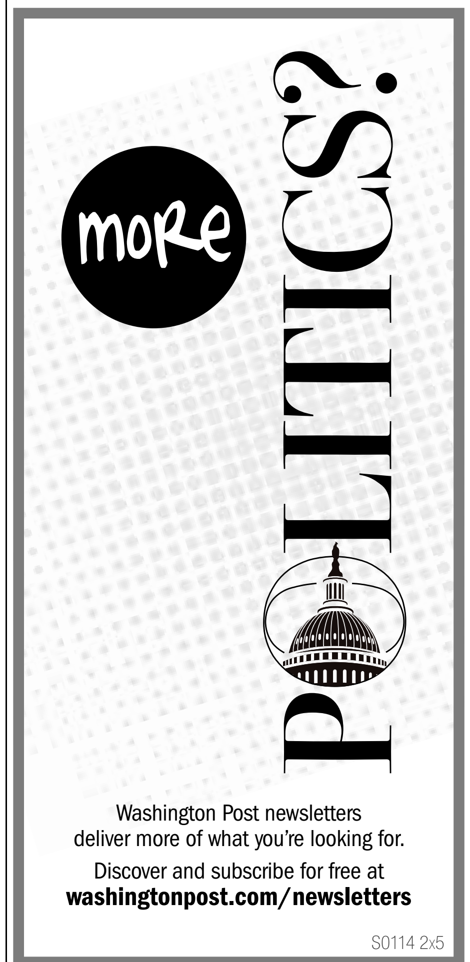
TERMS OF SALE: The Property will be sold in "AS IS" condition and without any warranty, as to any respect, restriction, covenant, or condition of the Property and subject to any liens, violations, and or all other matters taking priority over the Association's Lien(s), including, but not limited to, any deeds of trusts. The sale is further subject to all provisions, restrictions, easements, covenants, and conditions as contained in the Association's original, if applicable, amendments, instruments, Declaration, and Bylaws and or any other governing instrument.

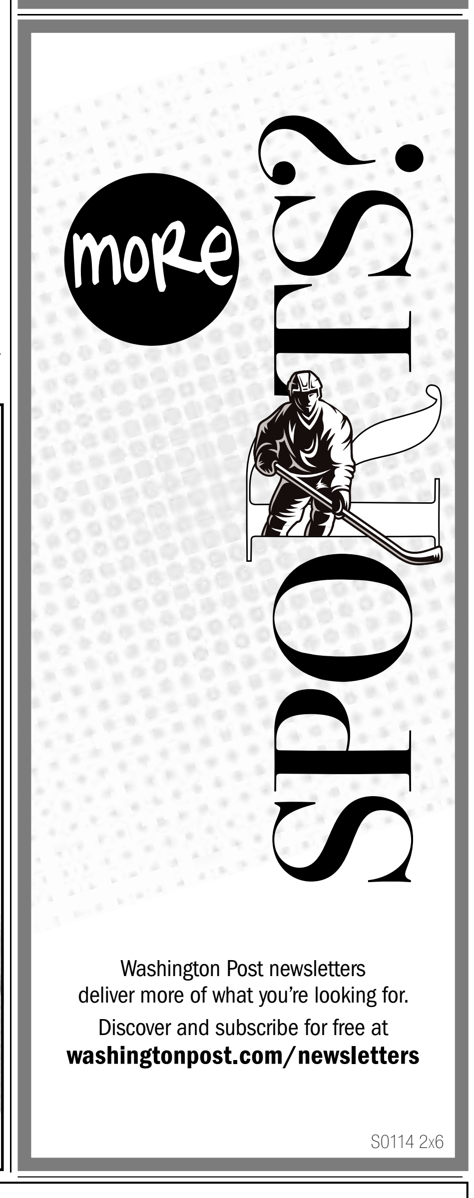
A nonrefundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required to be paid by the successful bidder in cash, certified funds or by cashier's check. Settlement within 30 days of sale. Additional terms to be announced at sale. If Trustee is unable for any reason, in its sole discretion, to convey title to the Property, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive shall be the return of its deposit, without interest. Trustee reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to (1) announce additional terms at the time of sale, (2) waive or modify the requirement with respect to the bidder's deposit, (3) accept or reject any or all bids, (4) extend the time to receive bids, (5) withdraw the Property from the sale at any time, and (6) postpone settlement following sale for a reasonable period of time as determined by Trustee. The information contained herein was obtained by sources deemed to be reliable but is offered for information purposes only. The Association cannot make any representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy of this information.

Direct any inquiries to counsel for the Association, Kristen L. Buck, Rees Broome, PC, 1900 Gallows Road, Suite 700, Vienna, Virginia 22182, (703) 790-1911.

PKLG, LLC, Trustee
8000 Westpark Drive, Suite 600
Tysons, Virginia 22102
703-506-9440 x229 (Telephone), 703-506-0929 (Facsimile)
trustee@pklgllc.com

December 16, 23, 30, 2022 and January 6, 2023 12406105








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THE WASHINGTON POST · FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022 K

WEEKEND



Beautiful, blue — and boring

Loud, chaotic action sinks the eye-popping 'Avatar: The Way of Water.' 18

20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

EXHIBIT
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START making plans

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ASTRID RIECKEN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The National Menorah lighting Sunday on the Ellipse will also include music, latkes and doughnuts.

Hanukkah

The Festival of Lights begins Sunday. The most prominent event is the lighting of the **National Menorah** on the Ellipse. Attended in past years by the president, vice president (including Joe Biden in 2014), and members of the Cabinet and Congress, this festive celebration includes performances by the U.S. Army Band and free latkes and doughnuts. (*4 p.m. nationalmenorah.org. Free; reservation required.)* Other Sunday night events include a "Glow in the Dark" celebration at **Bethesda Row** with glowing jugglers, arts and crafts, and face painting, as well as free doughnuts and latkes (*4:30 p.m. shalomchabad.com. Free*) and a First Night of Hanukkah party at **Metrobar**, where guests can BYO menorahs and enjoy vegan doughnuts and hot drinks (*4:30 to 8:30 p.m. metrobardc.com. Free*). On Tuesday, a nine-foot menorah is lit outside **Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington** in Clarendon, with music, latkes, hot cocoa and other treats. (*6 p.m. chabadAA.org. Free; reservation required.*)

More parties take place Monday night: The **Edlavitch DCJCC** hosts a family-friendly party with dreidel games, snacks, music and "fun Chanukah-themed activities." (*7 to 8:30 p.m. edcjcc.org. $10.*) Meanwhile, a group of organizations for Jews in their 20s and 30s, including the DCJCC's EntryPointDC, are joining forces for the "Hora and Heat" happy hour at **Franklin Hall**. Take Israeli dance lessons, sample spicy olive oil and hot sauces, sip Hanukkah-themed cocktails, or spin a dreidel. Guests are asked to bring winter socks or gloves for a clothing drive. (*5:30 to 9 p.m. edcjcc.org. $5.*)

At this time of year, Shaw neighborhood bar **Ivy and Coney** transforms into the Hanukkah-themed Chai-vy and Cohen-y, adding latkes and Manischewitz to its usual menu of hot dogs and canned beer. In addition to lighting candles at 7 p.m. each night, the bar offers a Shotnorah — a menorah-shaped contraption that allows up to eight people to take shots simultaneously. The decorations stay up through the end of the year, and on Dec. 25, the bar opens to celebrate "Chinese Food and Movie Day." (*1537 Seventh St. NW. ivyandconey.com.*)

AFI Holiday Classics

Holiday movies have been flooding streaming services for weeks, but there's no substitute for seeing the classics — "It's a Wonderful Life," "Miracle on 34th Street," "Elf," "Die Hard" — in a theater. The Holiday Classics series at the Silver Theatre goes beyond the conventional picks to include the affecting 1952 drama "The Holly and the Ivy" and the newly restored director's cut of "The Muppet Christmas Carol."

When: Through Dec. 25.

Where: AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring. *afisilver.afi.com.*

Tickets: $10-$13. $5 for children ages 12 and younger.

'The Spirit of Kwanzaa'

The Dance Institute of Washington has been at the forefront of diversifying ballet in D.C., training and supporting the next generation of "preprofessional" dancers. This year's production, "Celebrating Life and Harmony," uses dance, spoken word and music "to portray the struggles and creativity within the Black experience."

When: Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

Where: Cramton Auditorium, 2455 Sixth St. NW. *danceinstituteofwashington.org.*

Tickets: $15-$30.

D.C. Holiday Cocktail Seminar

If you're planning to entertain during the holiday season, you might be wondering — or panicking — about what beverages to serve your guests. Making festive drinks for friends need not be the most stressful part of the evening. Let some of D.C.'s most accomplished mixologists, including Todd Thrasher of Tiki TNT, Andra "AJ" Johnson of Serenata and Deke Dunne of Allegory, guide you through their favorite holiday cocktails at Last Call, during an annual event hosted by author and historian Philip Greene. The seminar includes sample drinks and light bites.

When: Monday from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Last Call, 1301-A Fourth St. NE. *philipjgreene.com.*

Tickets: $60.



CHERYL MANN

"The Hip Hop Nutcracker" moves the holiday classic to a modern urban setting.

'The Hip Hop Nutcracker'

There are many versions of "The Nutcracker" at this time of year, and "The Hip Hop Nutcracker" includes the familiar melodies and leitmotifs from Tchaikovsky's score. But it also features a modern urban setting and a crew of street-style dancers who windmill, helicopter and flip their way across the stage while a DJ and violinist remix the music into something that feels remarkably fresh. MC Kurtis Blow — creator of the groundbreaking "Christmas Rappin' " — is the host and opening act.

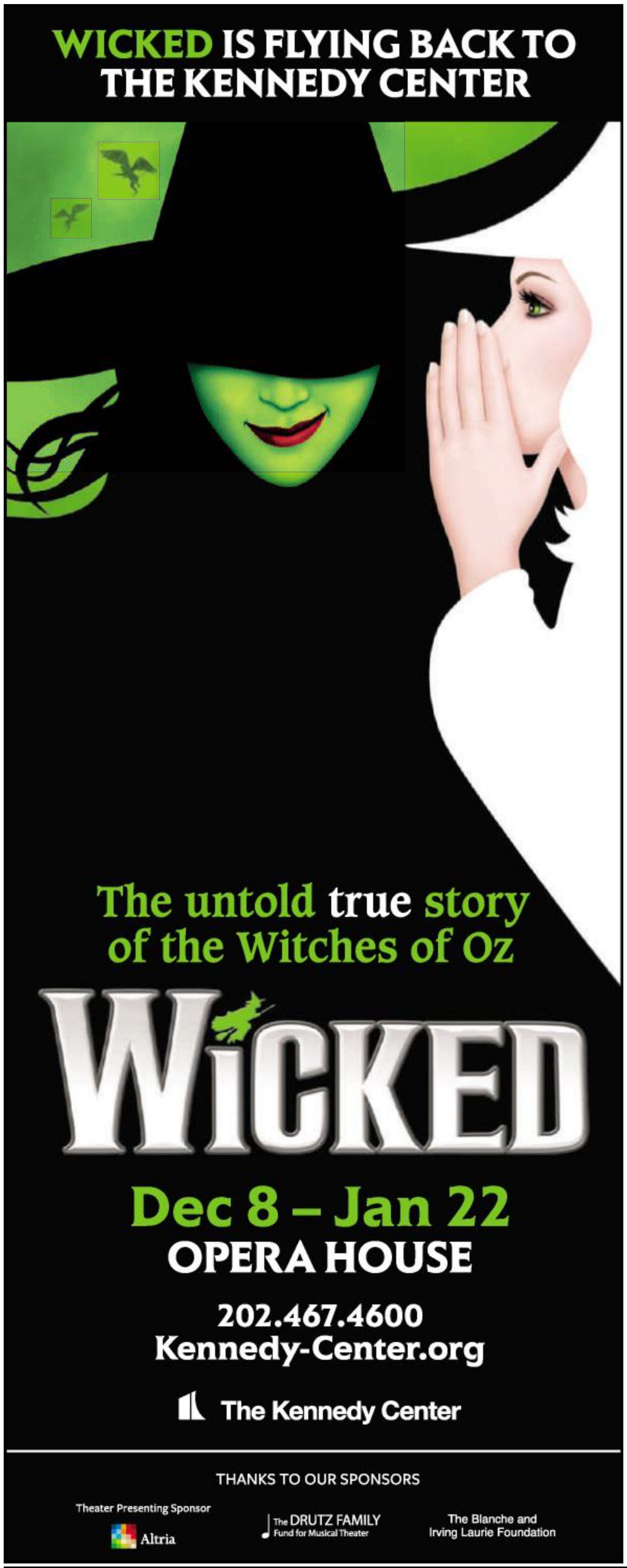
When: Monday through Thursday at 8 p.m.

Where: The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. *strathmore.org.*

Tickets: $34-$68.

WEEKEND

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Plan Ahead

Noteworthy events over the next few weeks



CARLO PIZARRO/STEREO VISION

Elvis' Birthday Fight Club features choreographed brawls between actors playing real and imaginary pop culture icons, such as Princess Leia vs. Xena, Warrior Princess, and Jesus vs. Criss Angel.

Jan. 1 National Bell Festival

On the first day of 2023, bells large and small will ring out throughout Washington as part of the fourth annual National Bell Festival. You can hear chiming all over the city, whether it's during a "full peal" attempt at Washington National Cathedral, which could last for more than three hours, or at a concert at St. John's Church at Lafayette Square featuring the 16-member handbell ensemble Virginia Bronze. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, a bronze bell from 1863 will toll 160 times to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. *Various locations. bells.org. Free.*

Jan. 7 In Conversation with Valerie June

Songwriter and instrumentalist Valerie June's singing is unmistakable: Her West Tennessee twang has the most angelic, almost otherworldly lilt. No wonder her new children's book is all about being brave and finding your own voice, with the help of a stringed instrument. She'll appear on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage to chat about the book, titled "Somebody to Love: The Story of Valerie June's Sweet Little Baby Banjolele," and sing a few songs in her "organic moonshine roots music" style. *6 p.m. Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. kennedy-center.org. Free.*

Jan. 7 'In the Round: Chant'

Arena Stage will echo with the mysterious sounds of Gregorian chant performed live by 10 musicians during Chamber Dance Project's upcoming show, "In the Round: Chant and Other Works." Seven dancers will move to these ancient melodies during "Chant," one of three ballets slated for this one-night-only performance that also includes a pas de deux with Washington Ballet dancer Gian Carlo Perez. *7:30 p.m. Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW. chamberdance.org. $40-$75.*

Jan. 12 'Harry Potter and the Sacred Text'

Sure, you've read all seven Harry Potter books. But have you analyzed them line by line searching for deep spiritual meaning? The podcasters behind the popular show "Harry Potter and the Sacred Text" decided to apply the practices they'd learned in their sacred reading studies at Harvard Divinity School to the Wizarding World, drawing out themes related to topics including humility, service and compassion. During a live event at Sixth & I Synagogue, they'll work their magic on a single Harry Potter chapter. A virtual viewing option is also available. *7 p.m. Sixth & I, 600 I St. NW. sixthandi.org. $30-$35 in person, $12 to watch online.*

Jan. 13-14 Elvis' Birthday Fight Club

After a pandemic-related calendar reshuffling this summer, Elvis' Birthday Fight Club is right back where it belongs in the calendar, near the King's birthday. This long-running slapstick comedy production in D.C. dreams up knockdown bouts between unlikely pop culture figures — as in, Godzilla vs. a bridezilla, or Princess Leia battling Xena, Warrior Princess. This year's fight roster is under wraps, and as always, hosts "Elvis" and "Kitty Glitter" narrate the staged shenanigans. *7 and 10 p.m. GALA Hispanic Theatre, 3333 14th St. NW. astropopevents.com. $30.*

— Adele Chapin



JACOB BLICKENSTAFF

Tennessee singer-songwriter Valerie June will chat about her new children's book and sing a few songs at the Kennedy Center.

Ask Tom

Excerpts from Post Food Critic Tom Sietsema's online discussion



DEB LINDSEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Diners eat Sunday dinner at Fairfax's Mama Chang, which would also be a good choice for a chatter planning a group birthday lunch.

Q: I have family members visiting who do not want to dine indoors or in outdoor patios or porches enclosed in plastic, plexiglass, etc. Think truly outdoor with heaters, private igloos, etc. Also vegetarian! Any suggestions for suitable dining options in D.C. or Maryland?
A: That's a tall order there, especially when you throw in a request for meatless options. But I think I can help. **Zaytinya,** the mezze specialist from José Andrés in Penn Quarter, has the heaters and the dishes you want. Find room for the roasted eggplant dip, a flatbread, falafel, stuffed grape leaves and more.

Q: I would love to try the new Chang Chang for dinner, but on Tock they do not allow reservations for solo dining. Is there a bar for walk-ins to eat at solo with no reservation? It would be helpful to know because no one wants to go to a buzzy new restaurant and for it to be no tables available. I know it's a new restaurant, but did they omit solo diners by accident, or is this a unique choice they are making?
A: Chang Chang's ace pastry chef says "full dining" is available at the 19-seat bar and the restaurant welcomes solo diners. "I will look into Tock to see if the option to make a reservation can be made" for one, Pichet Ong tells me.

Q: Do you have any candidates for hole-in-the-wall, white-tablecloth Italian restaurants? The kind you could find all over the Upper East Side in Manhattan decades ago.
A: It might not be as scruffy as you're looking for, but **Tortino** on 11th Street NW offers both linens and value. Entrees — generous portions — average about $28, and the food is prepared by a veteran of **Tosca** and **Al Tiramisu** in the District.

Q: 1799 Prime has been open for a few months now, but I don't believe I've seen you mention it. Should I read anything into that?
A: I checked it out recently and … it's a big mess, from a service perspective. Or at least when my party was there, in what used to be **Restaurant Eve**. There was a long wait to be acknowledged after being seated. Then, the entrees arrived on the heels of

SEE **TOM'S CHAT** ON **7**









CONCEPCIÓN HUERTA

Alma Laprida lets her trumpet marine speak

BY CHRIS RICHARDS

When Alma Laprida moved from Buenos Aires to Bethesda, she brought along her trumpet marine, a medieval instrument that generates an ancient sigh when bowed. "I don't want to dominate the instrument," she says. "I want to have a dialogue with it."

Last year, as Alma Laprida prepared to relocate from Buenos Aires to Bethesda, the packing wasn't easy. She gave away some furniture, asked friends to hold on to her books, and sold off a collection of synthesizers that she'd been using as an improviser and composer in the Buenos Aires sound-art scene. Then Laprida came across a piece of gear that had been sitting untouched in her closet for years. It was her custom-made trumpet marine: a stringed medieval instrument that, when bowed, generates an ancient sigh.

She remembered learning to play it when she was 19, and how "it totally resonated with my body," Laprida, now 37, says — so much so that whenever she wasn't playing the instrument in a medieval music ensemble, she'd be bowing it at home as a means of meditation. On various nights spent navigating the Buenos Aires performance art world, Laprida found herself toting her trumpet marine everywhere, from museums to discos, occasionally playing it on her head. "There was one performance where I played it dressed up like a nun, but [the habit] was all white, and I was wearing Kiss makeup," she says. "There are no pictures. I'm so sorry about that."

All of those adventures felt significant to Laprida, so when her husband accepted a new job in Washington last year, she brought her trumpet marine along — a decision that has since become central to her music making. "My context has changed radically, and it makes you [ask] a lot of questions about yourself," she says. "In Buenos Aires, I knew who I was as an artist. When I got here, I didn't know who I was anymore. So it was [good to have] something that was mine."

Thankfully, Laprida quickly found her way to Rhizome — a venue that routinely hosts the area's most adventurous musicians and audiences — and she's appeared there semi-regularly since, performing both composed and improvised pieces on her trumpet marine, often running its two-stringed sound through amplifiers and effects pedals, learning what it can do in real time. "I don't want to dominate the instrument," she says. "I want to have a dialogue with it. That's why I play in a very minimalistic way. I'm trying to play as little as I can and let the instrument do its thing. … Sometimes, I try to not control what I'm doing at all. Just let your arm go a little loose and these harmonics will appear."

Turns out, learning this instrument by experimenting with it is somewhat of a necessity. There aren't many trumpet marine stars out there to idolize. But Laprida says that dynamic speaks the instrument's appeal, too. It's capable of creating an age-old sound with almost zero pedagogical baggage. "So Jimi Hendrix is an influence," she says. "I'm not comparing myself there. But he invented a way of playing. And there's always new ways of doing things, I think. I like that. I also like recovering stories that seem lost in time."

Saturday at 7 p.m. at Rhizome, 6950 Maple St. NW. rhizomedc.org. $10-$20.

Emo-punk, hip-hop and more concerts to catch

BY MARK JENKINS

The Starting Line

Adolescent romantic yearning and shout-along choruses were the twin engines of the Starting Line's sound in 2002, when the Philadelphia-area emo-punk band released its perfectly titled debut album, "Say It Like You Mean It." Two subsequent longplayers showed little growth in themes and style, but also no flagging of passion or melodic invention. It seemed that lost love, a gentle acoustic-guitar intro and a surging refrain would sustain singer-bassist Kenny Vasoli and his cohorts forever. But in 2008, the quartet went on hiatus, playing only the occasional reunion show until they reemerged in 2016 with a EP, "Anyways." The three-song comeback's punchiest song is defiantly titled "Quitter," and doesn't slack off at all. The band (now a quintet with the full membership of longtime touring keyboardist Brian Schmutz) hasn't released any new material since. But the newish stuff jibes neatly with the older material, and both should sound bright, joyous and — at least for now — forever young. *Friday at 8 p.m. at the Fillmore Silver Spring, 8656 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring. livenation.com. $32.50-$66.50.*

Turnover

This Virginia Beach-formed quartet debuted a few years after the Starting Line with a similar emo-punk style. Several guitarists later, the band has shifted to a midtempo dream-pop style that's increasingly tempered by easygoing funk and disco. The band's fifth album, "Myself in the Way," was released last month. It mixes such divergent influences as Chic and Pink Floyd while reflecting singer Austin Getz's pandemic-era outlook: The title song is about both making a long-term commitment to his fiancee and being more appreciative of everyday life. Other tracks include "Pleasures Galore," whose digitally altered vocals push the band far from its roots, and "Queen in the River," which layers jazzy leads over reggae-style rhythm guitar. There's a lot going on in Turnover's current music, but the band mortars the pieces together skillfully. *Friday at 8 p.m. (doors open) at 9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW. 930.com. $25.*

Oddisee

D.C.-born, Brooklyn-based hip-hopper Oddisee established himself as a producer, then added his own fast-paced raps to his intricate, sophisticated tracks. He's still known for sometimes making

SEE ROUNDUP ON 7



IAN HURDLE

Turnover — from left, Danny Dempsey, Nick Rayfield, Austin Getz and Casey Getz — will play 9:30 Club on Friday night.



JASMIJN VAN BUYTENE

Oddisee, whose album "Rock Creek Park" was inspired by bike rides through the D.C.-to-Maryland slice of forest, will perform with backing from Good Compny at 9:30 Club on Sunday night.

ROUNDUP FROM 6

mostly instrumental music such as "Rock Creek Park," an album inspired by bike rides through the D.C.-to-Maryland slice of forest. After demonstrating his skill with synth beats and classic soul samples, the musician formed Good Compny, a jazzy trio that will back him at this show. Whatever the underlying music, Oddisee offers sharp, wide-ranging observations that forgo gangsta posturing. As he puts it in "Back of My Mind," "negativity ain't worth the exertion." *Sunday at 7 p.m. (doors open) at 9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW. 930.com. $30.*

Yerin Baek

Like most products of the K-pop assembly line, Yerin Baek began as a teenager in a prefab group. But the limpid-toned soprano went solo at 19, pursuing her own version of Western pop-soul, often with English lyrics. (Her family moved to New York City when she was 15, which no doubt boosted her proficiency.) Baek is an Amy Winehouse and Avril Lavigne fan who sometimes sings and plays guitar with a rock-oriented side project, the Volunteers. But the music she makes under her name is gentler in sound, if not always in content. Her second album, "Tellusboutyourself," includes a synth-pop shuffle, "Hate You," that deploys multiple f-bombs above its tinkling piano. That was no corporate decision: Unlike many K-poppers, Baek writes all her own material, which should give her staying power in a biz that's usually ready to move on to the next pretty face. *Monday at 8 p.m. at the Fillmore Silver Spring, 8656 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring. livenation.com. $40-$150.*

TOM'S CHAT FROM 5

appetizers, and diners were expected to clear a space on the tables. There were a flock of people running around, but no one making eye contact. The whole night was incredibly frustrating. It was one of those rare moments where I actually left the table to find a manager — who turned out to be part of the problem. Add 1799 to my "meh" list, discussed several weeks ago in this forum: restaurants I've been to that don't merit a full review.

Q: I have a birthday coming up, and my parents want to pick up takeout on their way to my house to celebrate. They live in Gaithersburg, and I am in Silver Spring/Wheaton. Any takeout recommendations in between there we should check out?

A: Rockville might be the right midpoint for takeout. Think **Thai Chef** for catfish dry curry and garlic fried rice, **El Mercat Bar de Tapas** for squid ink paella and Basque cheesecake, and **Commonwealth Indian** for lamb kebabs and yellow crab curry.

Q: You recommended Dylan's recently, so I reserved for my husband's landmark birthday as oysters on the half shell are one of his favorite foods. It was wonderful. Eight different types of oysters, including some unusual ones like New Brunswick. My husband was in heaven. It is, as you said, casual and loud, but it perfectly fits the neighborhood. One caution: Allow lots of time to find parking, or go early. It's still a residential neighborhood, and parking is hard to find on a Saturday.

A: Happy to hear you had the experience(s) I've had there. The laid-back vibe of **Dylan's** fits Baltimore, and I appreciate the care that goes into even simple things, like french fries (and well-shucked oysters).

Q: I have a major birthday in late January and am looking for a good Asian restaurant where I could take 8-10 friends for lunch. D.C., Maryland or Virginia are all okay. Maybe $30-$40 a head all in?

A: I'm a big fan of the Chinese cooking at both **Mama Chang** in Fairfax and the aforementioned **Chang Chang** in the District. For a group, I'd lean toward the former, with its open and airy interior.

Q: My mother is visiting from Dallas for the holidays, and we are going to the new Rubell Museum on Dec. 23. We would like to go to lunch before and are looking for a fun place that is not too far from the museum. We will be driving in from Virginia. We both are very adventurous eaters but don't want something too expensive. I would appreciate your advice.

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TOM'S CHAT FROM 7

A: Less than a mile away, the options include **Osteria Morini** for Italian and **La Famosa** for Puerto Rican. Both are delicious and moderately priced.

Q: My work team's holiday party is this Friday, and it's virtual (again), but we've learned to make the best of it. It's a costume party. (Theme: villains. Me: Lady MacBeth.) The company will pay for each person to order lunch, and we all agreed to pick something that reflects our respective dining scenes (we are all over the country). The lunch element makes it difficult, as my dining tends to be almost exclusively at night or weekend brunch. My first thought was a sub from Capo Deli and a Fauci Pouchy. However, subs do strike me as a little messy to eat on video (especially for someone wearing a crown). Any ideas? I was thinking something by José Andrés, but am curious if you have other ideas or suggestions for a lunch meal that embodies D.C. I am not adventurous, but I can always find something on any menu.
A: Yep, a big sandwich could be messy on Zoom. How about a bento box from the homegrown



SCOTT SUCHMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The half-chicken entree with yucca fries and black beans sits beside the grilled shrimp with pineapple entree at Anafre, a restaurant in Columbia Heights that also offers catering.

Teaism, which has three dining rooms around the District? The boxes cost $16 and come in four flavors, including "Korean" and salmon. Or better yet, a big salad from **Sweetgreen**, a business started by three friends from Georgetown University. Something from a José Andrés' restaurant is totally on point, too, maybe Spanish tapas from standard-bearer **Jaleo**.

Q: I have family coming in from California, and their youngest is 12 years old and her birthday happens while they are here. Looking for somewhere fun to dine for her birthday.
A: Go to **Unconventional Diner**. I love the whimsy of the room and the something-for-everyone menu. Nowhere else in town will you find Lebanese fried rice, chicken pot pie "poppers" and Peruvian soup on the same menu. Plus, the restaurant is not far from the Mall and its many attractions.

Q: Where can I order good Mexican/Tex-Mex food for Christmas? In my friend group, we don our finest pajama or yoga pants (elastic waistbands are mandatory) to drink margaritas and watch action movies while gnashing on chips, guacamole, salsa, chicken enchiladas and a taco/burrito bar. Rather than cook this year, I may order from a restaurant that offers Dec. 23 or 24 pickup.
A: You'll have to verify their hours of operation, but I know that D.C. restaurants **Anafre**, **El Sol** and **Mezcalero** all offer catering.

Q: There were a ton of options for Thanksgiving prepared meals to pick up and reheat (Beuchert's was delicious), but I am not finding as many options for Christmas. Any suggestions? Preferably that don't include green bean casserole. I know it's cheap, but yuck.
A: Teddy & the Bully Bar downtown offers Christmas-to-go starting at $65 a person. On

SEE **TOM'S CHAT** ON **9**

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TOM'S CHAT FROM 8

the menu: pickled beet salad, four ounces of both roasted turkey and wild salmon, sides including whipped potatoes and creamed spinach, pumpkin cheesecake for dessert. Pickup times run from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 25.

Q: What restaurants are more spacious so we are not on top of other diners?
A: Unfortunately, you pay (sometimes dearly) for pools of space between tables. I'm thinking of places like the luxe **Marcel's** in the West End and **Fiola** in Penn Quarter, both delicious and worth a splurge, I should add.

Q: Any recommendations for dining for two adults before an 8 p.m. show at Round House Theatre? We have been mostly dining outside, but unless the heat lamps are really hot, that might not be an option. For a sense of our taste, have enjoyed Gravitas, Iron Gate, Muchas Gracias, Oyamel, Rasika and many of your other recommendations. We will be coming from Maryland on the Beltway from the southeast side, so Rockville would be too far in the wrong direction.
A: That's easy: **Q by Peter Chang** is just a two-minute walk away. (I realize I'm promoting the chef's restaurants a lot, but his sundry operations address a lot of needs.)

Q: We lived in southern Italy, and Christmas Eve the tradition was linguine vongole. What restaurant has the best?
A: I haven't done a clams-and-linguine survey to identify "the best," but among the restaurants where I've been happy to eat the combination are **Al Tiramisu** in Dupont Circle, **L'Ardente** in NoMa and **Tosca** downtown, which incorporates surf clams and heats up the dish with chiles.

Q: Where can I eat in/around Middleburg? Casual to midrange, preferably. Context: We're members at a couple of wine clubs out there and often find ourselves wanting to grab a bite at the middle or end of the day. Yesterday's trip reminded me how much I miss the French Hound for dinner (long gone), and Old Ox for brew and a bite (closed for re-concepting). Red Fox has gone super fancy. A $125 four-course tasting menu is the only option outside the no-reservation tavern. And I used to adore Hunter's Head Tavern, but yesterday's dinner there was forgettable to say the least. It's hit-or-miss. There used to be a darling subterranean English



DEB LINDSEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Three types of Sichuan street food — dandan noodles, Sichuan wontons and hot-and-numbing noodles — at Q by Peter Chang.

pub, and even that is now gone.
A: Are you familiar with **Tremolo**, the contemporary wine bar and small plates source in the heart of Middleburg? I featured it as a favorite restaurant earlier this year. Tremolo is the vision of Jarad Slipp, the former estate manager at RdV Vineyards in Delaplane. In an earlier life, he patrolled the dining rooms at **CityZen** in Washington and **Restaurant Gordon Ramsay** in London. Tremolo is open from lunch through dinner and serves dishes including hot crab dip, a hoagie salad and mapo pork ribs. Fun!

Q: I'm coming in from out of town in a few weeks and looking for a fun but not too fancy place to eat lunch on a Saturday. Love all kinds of food.
A: St. Anselm is fun, and a chance to check out the nearby Union Market. Aim for the bar there. I also enjoy **Chez Billy Sud** for French in Georgetown and **Jaleo** for tapas in Penn Quarter.

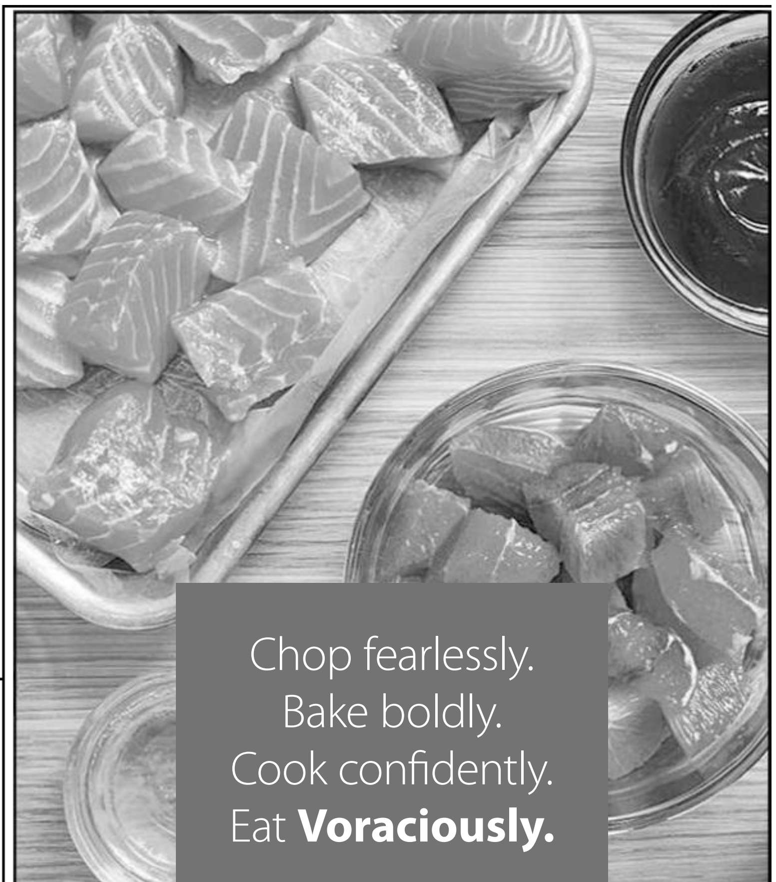
Q: We are going to the Planet Word museum and looking for a fun and not too fancy place to eat lunch (on a Saturday) nearby. Love all kinds of food.
A: In the museum awaits the very good **Immigrant Food Plus** for global flavors.

Q: Last week in Carolyn Hax's Holiday Hootenanny, someone posted about their Christmas tradition of doing a hotel bar/app and small plate crawl. My husband and I are home alone this year, and this sounds like a lot of fun. Any recommendations for hotel bars with lovely cocktails and food that will be open on Christmas?
A: I just confirmed that **Quill** in the dressed-for-the-holidays Jefferson hotel will be open on Dec. 25. Wherever else you go — the Waldorf Astoria is fun — you must include Quill in your game plan.

Q: My dear friend of 20 years is moving, and we have been to so many of your recommendations over the years. If you had a last meal in D.C. proper — no price point or cuisine limitations — where would it be? I know this is highly subjective, and maybe you yourself would choose Buck's Fishing and Camping, but nevertheless, I'd love to hear an option or two for a last meal with a dear friend.
A: Buck's is a great choice. I might also consider **Bombay Club** near the White House or **Et Voila!** in the Palisades — the last ironic but oh so good.

Tom Sietsema hosts a weekly Q&A on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at *live.washingtonpost.com*.





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THOMAS HOLTON

A portrait from Thomas Holton's "The Lams of Ludlow Street" depicts a New York City family the photographer has followed over nearly two decades.

Exploring the boundaries of personal connection

An expansive, inclusive sense of family characterizes Portrait Gallery exhibit 'Kinship'

BY MARK JENKINS

Traditionally, national portrait galleries exhibit likenesses of people who are important to the country. The exhibition "Kinship" at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery takes a different course. The eight artists in this eclectic and often moving exhibition depict people who are important — but to each other. That's a very different kind of community, but one that's just as powerful in its way.

Most of the contributors depict their families, and often themselves. But there are many kinds of kinship, as Thomas Holton demonstrates with a suite of crisp, intimate photographs that document a couple and their three children in New York City's Chinatown over nearly two decades. Holton is not related to the Lams, but 20 years of regular visits to a tiny apartment made him almost a member of the clan. "I have learned to love the Lams as much as my family," the photographer's statement acknowledges.

Where Holton's pictures emphasize the tight spaces of the Lams' apartment, Jessica Todd Harper's photos of her family and friends are roomier, reflecting a more affluent and less urban lifestyle. As in the photos of the Lams, children are often central to the compositions. The Philadelphia photographer herself, holding her infant son, stands at the center of the most striking image. The twosome are illuminated softly from the rear by sunlight through a bathroom window, yielding a vision of enchanted domesticity that Harper likens to Vermeer's paintings.

Scenes of a mother or a grandmother with a child are also common in Jess

SEE KINSHIP ON 11



JESS T. DUGAN

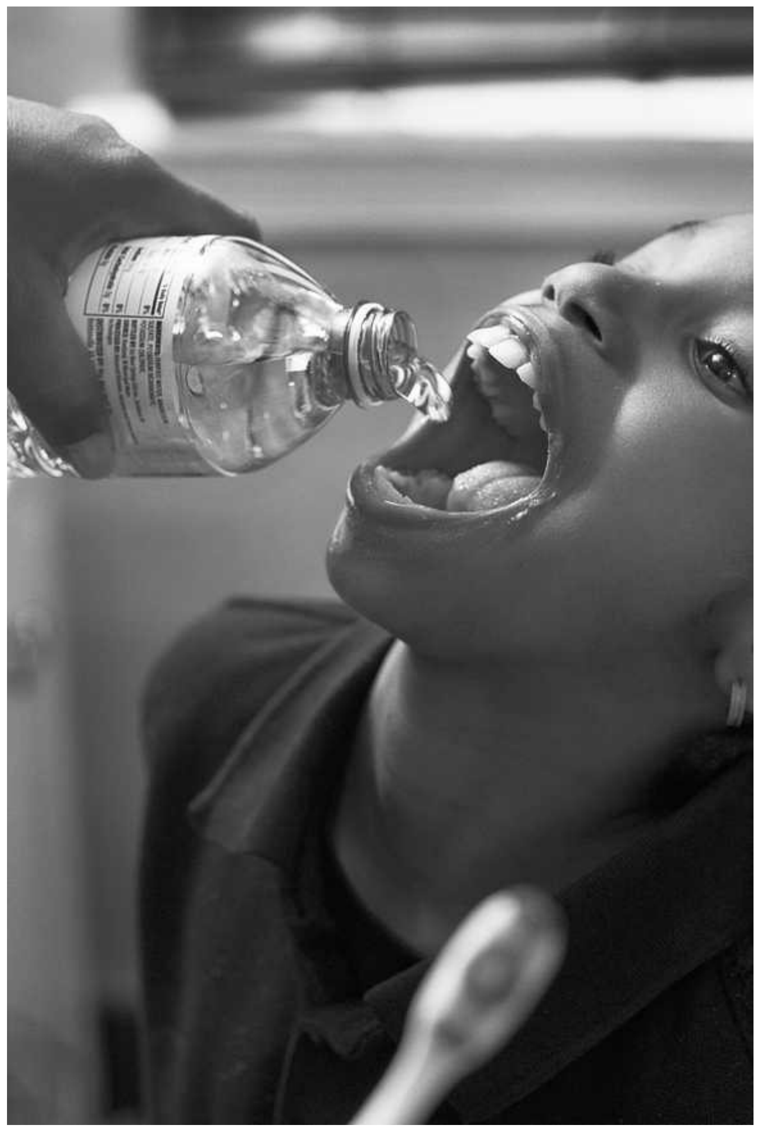
In a self-portrait, artist Jess T. Dugan holds daughter Elinor while gazing through a screen door.



SEDRICK HUCKABY/TALLEY DUNN GALLERY



RUTH LEONELA BUENTELLO



LATOYA RUBY FRAZIER/COLLECTION OF PRISCILLA VAIL CALDWELL/GLADSTONE GALLERY

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Sedrick Huckaby's "Connection" includes both oil painting and sculpture: a figure made of newspaper papier-mâché atop a desk chair; "Under the Mexican Colchas," from first-generation Mexican American artist Ruth Leonela Buentello, spans two canvases; "Shea Brushing Zion's Teeth With Bottled Water in Her Bathroom, Flint, Michigan," by LaToya Ruby Frazier, shows the Cobb family's struggle with industrial pollution that the artist associates with her own family's travails in a Pennsylvania steel town.

KINSHIP FROM 10

T. Dugan's photos of the nonbinary artist's queer household. The series, begun in 2012, portrays the St. Louis artist and their partner, Dugan's mother and her partner, and the younger couple's daughter, Elinor, born in 2018. The pictures are warm and emotionally revealing, if occasionally guarded. In one shot, Dugan holds Elinor and gazes at the camera through a screen door that places an almost invisible barrier between home and the world.

The sense of menace is stronger and more specific in the work of LaToya Ruby Frazier and Anna Tsouhlarakis. The former made several visits to Flint, Mich., to photograph the city's toxic-water crisis. Frazier focuses on the Cobb family, whose struggle with industrial pollution she associates with her own family's travails over three generations in the steel town of Braddock, Pa. The Chicago artist followed the Cobbs to Mississippi as they fled the plight encapsulated in a black-and-white close-up photo in which Shea Cobb pours water from a plastic bottle into the mouth of her 8-year-old daughter, Zion.

Tsouhlarakis, a Native American, is concerned with missing Native women whose cases have been neglected by law enforcement agencies. The centerpiece of her contribution to the show is a performance in which she will build a sculpture made from wood collected near her Colorado home. The event is scheduled for next year on May 5, which is Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day.

In addition to photographs, the selection includes works by three painters whose expressionist styles transform family photos. Njideka Akunyili Crosby collages photo-transfers of old snapshots into the clothing and backdrops of her subjects; these include the Nigeria-born Californian's husband, who's depicted faceless while wearing a tunic and trousers covered with faces. The man can be seen as the artist's new life, cloaked in her previous one.

Fabric is equally integral to the pictures of Ruth Leonela Buentello, a first-generation Mexican American whose work is hung in a gallery that's been wallpapered for maximum homeyness. The San Antonio artist doesn't idealize her family background, however. In both a self-portrait and a painting of her parents, the female mouths are painted over to symbolize the silencing of women in patriarchal cultures.

Departed generations commune with the living in Sedrick Huckaby's work, which juxtaposes painting and sculpture. Several of the Fort Worth artist's canvases depict people wearing memorial T-shirts bearing the names and pictures of deceased loved ones. This is a practice in the Black community, according to the catalog's introductory essay. Huckaby uses it to unify multiple generations in a piece that pairs a painting with a papier-mâché rendering of his young daughter. Where most of these artists highlight physical closeness, Huckaby attempts to reach across the abyss. His artist's statement includes this food for thought: "Perhaps kinship can surpass mortality."

If you go

KINSHIP

National Portrait Gallery, Eighth and F streets NW. npg.si.edu.

Dates: Through Jan. 7, 2024.

Prices: Free.

More delights from Four Sisters family

Cozy Vietnamese snack bar specializes in banh mi, other favorites

BY TIM CARMAN



Owners Thuan and Angela Lai debuted 4 Sisters Asian Snack Bar in 2018, and whenever you arrive, odds are good you'll find the couple there preparing orders.

When Song Que closed in 2014, its demise officially ended the Lai family's relationship with the Eden Center, the sprawling Falls Church mall where Kim Lai and Thanh Tran created not just the popular deli but the single most recognizable name in local Vietnamese cooking. You know the name even if you don't know the couple that summoned it into existence: Four Sisters, a first-generation immigrant restaurant that would ultimately turn Lai and Tran's quartet of daughters into a brand. ¶ Lai and Tran retired when Song Que closed, but the brand name they created lives on. Four Sisters (originally called Huong Que when the couple opened the restaurant in the early 1990s at the Eden Center) continues to hum along in Merrifield. The Four Sisters Grill, a project established by eldest son Hoa but now run by eldest daughter Ly and her husband, remains a fixture in Clarendon, which was once the nexus of Vietnamese life until the Metro station debuted and forced the community out west, to the Eden Center. ¶ Four years ago, however, another Four Sisters brand took root in Ashburn, Va., only 2o-some miles from the Eden Center but a million miles away spiritually. Youngest son Thuan Lai opened 4 Sisters Asian Snack Bar in 2018 with his wife, Angela. Their shop borrows the name of the family's flagship restaurant but trades in many of the sandwiches and drinks that, for more than a decade, made Song Que a regular stop at the Eden Center. ¶ Thuan, you might recall, used to be the manager at Song Que. When the deli served its last bubble tea, he wasn't sure what his future held. He thought of leaving the restaurant business. He briefly toyed with a career in real estate. But at some point, he realized he missed the human connection that restaurants provide, even during a pandemic. He missed talking to people. He missed that moment when food meets mouth, and a diner's face lights up. For people in the food biz, that moment is a contact high like no other. ¶ "I felt like I was born into it," says Thuan, who started busing tables at his parent's restaurant as a teenager. "So it was hard to walk away."









PHOTOS BY DEB LINDSEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The Spam musubi — featuring pan-fried Spam coated in a sweet soy-based marinade — are available only on the weekends at 4 Sisters Asian Snack Bar in Ashburn; Nathan Pillera and Ellie Atkins browse the assortment of snacks and candies; the tightly focused menu includes french fries and a lemongrass chicken banh mi; and the grilled pork, served here with jasmine rice, is one of a few protein options that can also be served in a banh mi roll or with vermicelli noodles.



Jessica Ryder makes a honeydew milk tea with boba at 4 Sisters Asian Snack Bar. The menu also includes fruit teas, brewed teas and slushies.

If you go

4 SISTERS ASIAN SNACK BAR
43670 Greenway Corporate Dr., No. 106, Ashburn, Va., 571-510-3978; foursisterssnackbar.com.

Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, and Wednesday through Saturday; 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Closed Tuesday.

Nearest Metro: Ashburn, with about a 1-mile walk to the shop.

Prices: $4.45 to $12.95 for all items on the menu.

He persuaded his wife to abandon her flower business and start 4 Sisters Asian Snack Bar, hoping they might be able to corner the market in Ashburn, where milk teas and banh mi were relatively rare until the couple debuted their deli in November 2018. Their snack bar (incidentally, Thuan says there's no significance to the shop using the Roman number "4" in the name rather than spelling it out) is not a replica of Song Que. The space, tucked into the Shoppes at Ryan Park, is too small and too narrow to accommodate the spread of sticky rice cakes, mangosteens, che, Vietnamese jerky, jelly flower cups and other items that used to grace practically every flat surface at Song Que.

Space plays a factor in the options at the snack bar. But so do demographics. Thuan and Angela tested the Ashburn market with sticky rice cakes for the Lunar New Year and Vietnamese jerky, among other offerings, and the market rejected them. So their menu is tightly focused on banh mi, boba teas, vermicelli and jasmine rice plates, and pork spring rolls. They've also grafted a couple of foreign objects onto the menu: Spam musubi and french fries, the latter of which you can have dusted with an optional chili powder that will, quite literally, test your heat tolerance. I could choke down only a few fries before I retreated to the comfort of my taro milk tea, its starchy sweetness the perfect antidote.

Thuan, 45, and Angela, 35, have more in common with the elders of the Lai family than a desire to erect a Vietnamese deli. The owners, like Lai and Tran before them, are committed to homestyle Vietnamese cooking, but just as important, they have the 24/7 work ethic to execute their approach. Much of what they sell is prepared in-house, despite a shortage of workers available to assist them in the kitchen. Whenever you walk into 4 Sisters, the odds are good that Thuan and Angela will be there, preparing your order. About half the recipes, Thuan says, are hand-me-downs from his mother. The other half are house creations, like the Spam musubi, available only on the weekends. Adapted from a recipe by Sly Liao, a chef who's married to Ly Lai, the musubi is packed with a slab of pan-fried Spam, its sweet soy-based marinade prominent even when engulfed in rice.

The owners don't bake their own Vietnamese baguettes for the banh mi, but they have sourced a superb loaf, one with a light, crackly crust and a soft crumb that yields to whatever is packed inside. Several of the protein options — grilled lemongrass chicken, grilled lemongrass beef, grilled pork and Vietnamese tofu — are utility players at 4 Sisters, available for whatever vehicle you desire: banh mi roll, jasmine rice or vermicelli noodles. Every one of those proteins slips comfortably into the baguette, but I must admit, the banh mi that speaks to me most is the one that stands alone: menu item M5, a crusty roll slathered with pate and layered with thick slices of cha lua, the Vietnamese processed ham with the hint of fish sauce. My only issue is with the garnish, the traditional slivers of pickled daikon and carrot. They lean sweet. I missed that blast of acid to cut through the richness.

But you know what I think is perfect? Thuan and Angela's nuoc cham, the Vietnamese condiment/sauce that can make or break a vermicelli or rice-based dish. Their nuoc cham hits that sweet spot in which the chili peppers, sugar and fish sauce speak with equal voice. The condiment instantly adds depth and harmony to everything it touches, whether the crispy spring rolls with vermicelli or the jasmine rice with grilled pork.

As good as the grilled pork over rice is at 4 Sisters, it wasn't even the best version I encountered in Ashburn. Or it wasn't until mid-October, when Saigon Outcast suddenly closed its doors, another victim of the long, whip-cracking tail of the pandemic. The proprietor of Saigon Outcast was Hoa Lai, the former chef at Four Sisters and the older brother of Thuan. The siblings had independently sought out Ashburn for their next projects. Now only one Lai brother remains standing, a painful reminder that the hospitality industry isn't always a merit-based business, especially in a pandemic. The worst part, however, is how a business failure can cast a long, ugly shadow. When I contacted Hoa, he said that, at age 46, he's done with restaurants.

"Never going back!" he texted.

His frustration was palpable. Maybe one day, after the pain fades, Hoa will reconsider the decision. But in the meantime, we still have 4 Sisters Asian Snack Bar.

THE WASHINGTON POST · FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022



VALERIE TERRANOVA

A feminist farce with a misogynist bard

Born of pandemic exasperation, revenge comedy 'Jane Anger' riffs on Shakespeare and 'King Lear'

BY THOMAS FLOYD

"Jane Anger," the feminist revenge comedy now onstage at the Shakespeare Theatre Company, is a sterling example of pandemic-era ingenuity — which is ironic, considering it was born as a searing sendup of that very concept.

Playwright and actress Talene Monahon developed the play's first iteration in the spring of 2020. As the coronavirus pandemic raged and the theater community closed its curtains, Monahon found herself fixating on a common assurance: "Shakespeare wrote 'King Lear' during a pandemic, so think about all the great art that will be written during this time."

"I think it was meant to be encouraging and sort of hopeful," Monahon says. "At the time, I found it pretty annoying and sort of a weird, capitalist [mind-set of] 'produce, produce,' even though people are dying."

So Monahon channeled that exasperation into a play called "Frankie and Will," set during the London plague of 1606, about a comically misogynist William Shakespeare penning "King Lear" while quarantining with his ambitious apprentice. She then recruited the real-life couple Michael Urie and Ryan Spahn to star in a virtual staging, presented by New York's MCC Theater in May 2020 and streamed from the couple's home.

That summer, Monahon went about fleshing out the short two-hander into a full-length play. Looking to add female voices to the farce, she wrote in fictionalized versions of two historical figures: the 16th-century feminist writer Jane Anger and Shakespeare's enigmatic wife, Anne Hathaway. Rebranded as "Jane Anger," the play transformed from a male-centered buddy comedy into an absurdist depiction of female frustration.

After "Jane Anger" premiered earlier this year at the New Ohio Theatre, director Jess Chayes and the four-actor ensemble — Urie as Shakespeare, Spahn as his apprentice, Monahon as Hathaway and Amelia Workman as Anger — are back for another go-round at STC's Klein Theatre through Jan. 8.

"[Monahon] turned that little funny play that came from this little cynical idea into this huge, big play — capital P *Play* — that is actually about a lot of things," Urie says. "Every time we get to the end of the play, I'm touched, I get goose bumps and I tear up because she's made something new out of something old."

Monahon wrote the full version of "Jane Anger" while working as a nanny to her sister's children in the summer of 2020, unsure when or whether it would see the light of day. She was researching Shakespeare's contemporaries when she discovered Anger, an author known as the first woman to publish a full-length defense of womanhood in

SEE ANGER ON 15

If you go

JANE ANGER
Shakespeare Theatre Company's Klein Theatre, 450 Seventh St. NW; 202-547-1122. shakespearetheatre.org.
Dates: Through Jan. 8.
Prices: $35-$125.

Talene Monahon, left, wrote "Jane Anger" and also fills the role of Anne Hathaway, Shakespeare's wife. Amelia Workman plays the title character, based on an author known as the first woman to publish a full-length defense of womanhood in English: the 1589 pamphlet "Jane Anger, Her Protection for Women."

ANGER FROM 14

English: the 1589 pamphlet "Jane Anger, Her Protection for Women."

"I was just shocked that I'd never heard of it in all of my women and gender studies classes in college and all of my Shakespeare studies," Monahon says. "I couldn't believe that there was this wild, colorful, proto-feminist pamphlet that was published during Shakespeare's lifetime, and it felt like an exciting opportunity to write a new character."

Although there were discussions about continuing "Jane Anger" virtually, by filming the play in an empty theater and streaming it to audiences at home, Monahon says she's grateful those opportunities never materialized. For one, she wrote the character of Anger as a fourth-wall-breaking protagonist who directly engages with the crowd. And comedy, Monahon and her collaborators point out, craves audience feedback.

"You don't know what it is until you place it in front of a live audience," Spahn says. "To have that be deprived for so many years, with everything we were doing digitally, you could never complete the final stage because you never had that information."

By the time "Jane Anger" was about to premiere this past February, the last piece of the puzzle was finding Anger herself. As the newcomer in a cast featuring three longtime friends, who had been working on the play for nearly two years at that point, Workman concedes she joined the production with some unease. But she found Monahon was eager to shape the role around her strengths — a process that has continued in the Shakespeare Theatre rehearsal hall as the playwright punches up her script with topical gags.

"That collaborative spirit is not always present," Workman says. "Sometimes people are like, 'What do you think?' and they don't actually want to know what you think. Talene is the kind of writer who's like, 'What do you think? How do you feel about that?' and it shows up in the play within five minutes or the next day or in a week."

With its gleefully anachronistic tone, nod-and-wink meta-humor and raunchy antics, "Jane Anger" makes for brazen counterprogramming as it follows a staging of "Much Ado About Nothing" at STC's Harman Hall and precedes a production of "King Lear" at the Klein Theatre in February. Its portrayal of Shakespeare himself, stricken with writer's block and a severe case of narcissism, plays as particularly irreverent at a company adorned with his name.



PHOTOS BY VALERIE TERRANOVA

From left, Ryan Spahn plays ambitious apprentice Francis, Michael Urie is William Shakespeare, Amelia Workman is Jane Anger and writer Talene Monahon plays Anne Hathaway in the New York production of "Jane Anger," which has now arrived at Klein Theatre.





"I'm completely tickled and excited by the fact that this play comes between two incredibly detailed, amazing Shakespeare interpretations," Chayes says. "To have sandwiched between those a play where we can gleefully skewer Shakespeare and the patriarchy, it's just the best programming choice I could imagine."

It's a sentiment echoed by Urie, the "Ugly Betty" alumnus who last year starred in the Netflix rom-com "Single All the Way" and the Broadway play "Chicken & Biscuits." Returning to the Shakespeare Theatre, after playing the titular role in "Hamlet" in 2018, Urie is struck by the trajectory of a play that began as a DIY performance online — complete with a cameo from his and Spahn's dog — and now occupies hallowed theatrical ground.

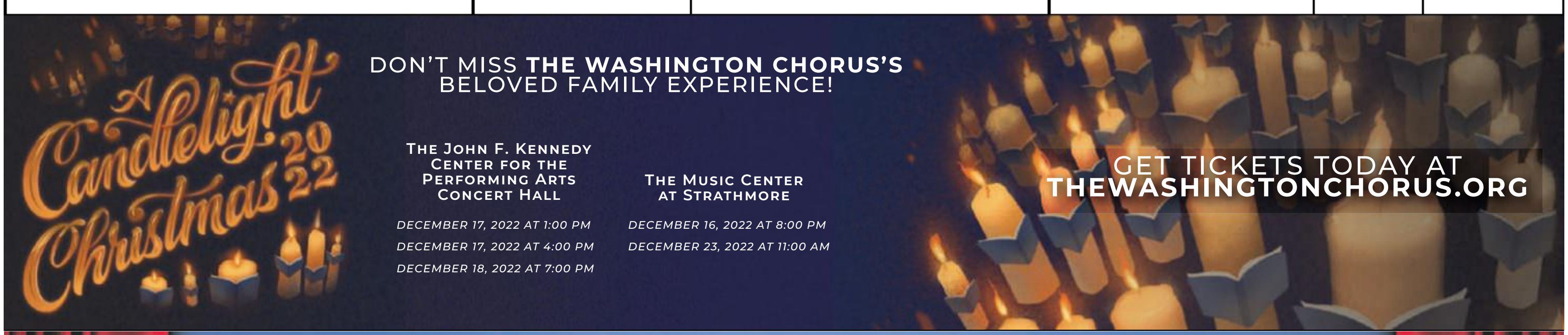
> *"Every time we get to the end of the play, I'm touched, I get goose bumps and I tear up because she's made something new out of something old."*
>
> **Michael Urie,** on "Jane Anger" playwright Talene Monahon

"It's this amazing silver lining of this dark time, when we were all scared and sad and the theater was choking to death, and [Monahon] wrote this amazing piece of theater that we did under duress, almost," Urie says. "Now we're at the Shakespeare Theatre, doing a play about Shakespeare. To have taken the journey of this play over the last almost three years is extremely gratifying."

ABOVE LEFT: Urie has been playing Shakespeare since Monahon arranged a virtual staging of an earlier version of the play called "Frankie and Will," streamed from his and Spahn's home. ABOVE RIGHT: Monahon, pictured onstage in New York, wrote the full version of "Jane Anger" while working as a nanny to her sister's children in 2020.

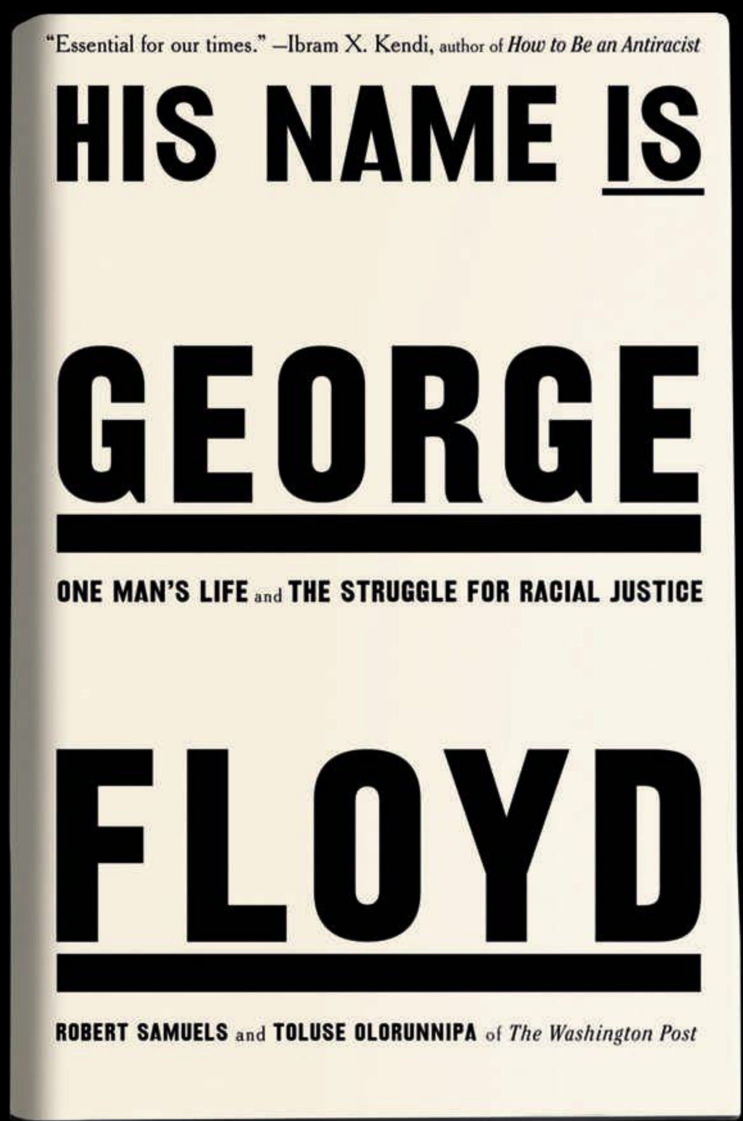
the GUIDE to the Lively Arts

SHOW NAME	DATES & TIMES	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	PRICE	ADDITIONAL
HOLIDAY EVENTS					
Christmas Eve at Lewinsville" - Musical, Baroque, Jazz	Saturday, December 24th, 2022 4:30pm, 7pm, 9:30pm	Family Christmas Eve Musical @4:30, "Candlelight Baroque" Christmas with baroque orchestra & Choir @7PM, and Cool Jazz" service Christmas with Jazz Trio and Young Adult Choir @ 9:30pm	**Lewinsville Presbyterian Church 1724 Chain Bridge Road McLean, Virginia 22101 703-356-7200 lewinsville.org**	Free! Child care provided at the 4:30PM and 7PM events.	We only ask that you spread the word and bring a friend!
Manassas Ballet Theatre presents Nutcracker	DEC 16, 17, & 18 at 7:30 PM DEC 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, & 23 at 3 PM	Join Clara as she experiences the magic of Christmas and journeys with her Nutcracker Prince to the Land of the Sugar Plum Fairy. The Nutcracker is a wonderful holiday show for all ages, featuring the professional dancers and musicians of Manassas Ballet Theatre.	**Hylton Performing Arts Center 10960 George Mason Cir, Manassas, VA 20110 www.hyltoncenter.org 703-993-7759 info@manassasballet.org**	Tickets Start at $35	With Live Orchestra Free Parking 703-257-1811
"Frosty" The Barter Players	Monday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m.	Can Frosty help Billy find his real family in time for Christmas? Join them on a thrilling quest through New York City as they discover that the real magic of the season is love.	**The Alden 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, Va. 22101 aldentheatre.org**	$15/$12 seniors-students/$10 MCC district	Free, onsite parking
MUSIC - CONCERTS					
 **André Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra**	Saturday, September 16, 2023 7:30 P.M.	Join André Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra for a magical night of fun, dance and romance.	**Capital One Arena 601 F St. NW, Washington DC 20004 www.capitalonearena.com**	$79+	
AMAZING GRACE Music for the Spirit	Wed., January 11, 2023	Ring in the new year with the uplifting sounds of *Amazing Grace* woven throughout a stirring program for chorale and orchestra. Featuring African-American spirituals, works by William Grant Still, J.S. Bach, Evelyn Simpson Curenton, and Adolphus Hailstork.	**The Kennedy Center, Terrace Theater (301) 651-9794 www.postclassical.com**	$45	Featuring CAAPA Chorale, Adolphus Hailstork & more. Guest Curator: Stanley J Thurston
MUSIC - CHORAL					
O Great Mystery Thomas Colohan, Artistic Director	Sunday, December 18th @ 5 pm	Celebrate the season with a collection of a cappella masterworks including "Missa O Magnum Mysterium" by Tomás Luis de Victoria and "Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël" by Frances Poulenc.	Church of the Epiphany 1317 G St NW, Washington, DC 20005 washingtonmasterchorale.org	GA - $40 Premium Orch - $60 Stu - $10	For tickets or more info visit https://www.washingtonmasterchorale.org/current-season/#tab-2
OPERA					
Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors A holiday family favorite	Complete show details at www.belcantanti.com	SAT, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Arts Barn in Gaithersburg SUN, Dec. 18, 3 p.m. at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Bethesda FRI, Dec. 30, 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Rockville	**Gaithersburg Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Bethesda Presbyterian, 7611 Clarendon, Bethesda Trinity Lutheran Church, 11200 Old Georgetown Rd, Rockville**	$40, children 12 and under $25, group prices available	Tickets available online and at the door



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—IBRAM X. KENDI, author of *How to Be an Antiracist*

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"A vivid, necessary portrait of a Black man in America, in all its nuance, tragedy, and fullness. Extraordinary." **—ABBY PHILLIP,** CNN anchor and senior political correspondent

VIKING

HisNameIsGeorgeFloyd.com

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Avatar: The Way of Water ★★☆☆



20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

Natural beauty doused in noisy action

Cacophonous destruction and stunning visuals collide uneasily in the long-awaited sequel, which takes our hero and his family underwater

BY ANN HORNADAY

It's been 13 years since the original "Avatar," one of the most overrated and forgettable "important" movies of the 21st century. So forgettable that viewers will be forgiven for not quite remembering who's who and what's what in "Avatar: The Way of Water," a sequel few people asked for, outside of the franchise's obsessive auteur, James Cameron, and pandemic-era theaters desperate to lure audiences back into the habit of big-screen moviegoing.

As "Top Gun: Maverick" proved earlier this year, as long as a sequel is smart, well-written, beautifully cast and stylishly executed, it can take all the time it needs getting here. "The Way of Water" doesn't necessarily check all those boxes, but what it does right will offer spectators moments of awe, full-body immersion and genuine beauty. Cameron, co-writing here with Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver, from a story he collaborated on with Jaffa, Silver, Josh Friedman and Shane Salerno, has never been known for his subtle narrative or sophisticated dialogue: "The Way of Water" is frequently clunky and ham-handed in its storytelling, and the words spoken by its characters — human, humanoid and in between — aren't particularly memorable. But there's no denying the power of images that can only be described as transporting — literally and figuratively.

"The Way of Water" catches up with "Avatar's" protagonist, Jake Sully (Sam Worthington), a decade after he's decided to retire from service with the Marines and take up residence on Pandora (the planet he was sent to colonize), become a member of the native Na'vi tribe and marry Neytiri (Zoe Saldana). As "The Way of Water" opens, we're introduced to Jake and Neytiri's spirited children: sons Neteyam (Jamie Flatters) and Lo'ak (Britain Dalton), as well as a little girl named Tuk (Trinity Jo-Li Bliss). They've also adopted Kiri, a sensitive adolescent whose mother, Grace Augustine, was played by Sigourney Weaver in the first "Avatar." Here, by way of both digital wizardry and her own vocal gifts, Weaver delivers an impressively convincing portrayal of her younger self as a curious, tuned-in girl with profound powers to connect with the universe.

Kiri is one of the fully realized characters in "The Way of Water," which centers on Jake's efforts to save his family when rapacious forces once again threaten the peaceable kingdom of Pandora. The gung-ho leader of that hegemonic mission is another familiar face: Quaritch (Stephen Lang), Jake's ally turned nemesis who was vanquished but has been reconstituted to resemble the towering blue-skinned ectomorphs who inhabit Pandora.

For the first 45 minutes or so, "The Way of Water" busies itself with introducing, reintroducing, explaining and setting up — and also establishing the idyllic family life Jake is trying to hard to preserve. Once he's forced to flee the forest, the Sullys take refuge with the Metkayina people, whose seaside redoubt resembles the Maldives with way more fantastical flora and fauna.

SEE AVATAR ON 20

Trinity Jo-Li Bliss plays Tuk, one of the children of Jake and Neytiri from the first "Avatar." The family comes under threat when rapacious forces again threaten peaceable Pandora.

Eo ★★★½



JANUS FILMS

A donkey's tragic tale, rapturously told

Film captures the beauty of the world and the cruelty of humankind

BY MARK JENKINS

Through a donkey's large and expressive eyes, "Eo" shows us the beauty of the world and the cruelty of humanity. If the wordless title character can't understand the latter, neither can director and co-writer Jerzy Skolimowski. Yet the esteemed 84-year-old Polish director has made the animal's story as visually ravishing as it is emotionally devastating.

The model for "Eo" (whose title is derived from the donkey bray often rendered in English as "hee-haw") is severe French Catholic director Robert Bresson's 1966 "Au Hasard Balthazar," about a teenage girl whose donkey is tormented by a series of owners. That austere black-and-white film focused more on the people around the donkey Balthazar during his transit from birth to death, although it does suggest that the donkey is a Christ figure. Skolimowski largely (though not entirely) avoids religion, replacing it with a timely concern: environmental destruction.

The director introduces Eo in a flickering red-tinted sequence that, like many in the film, is initially bewildering. It turns out to be a circus performance featuring the donkey and the person who may be his best friend, a young dancer (Sandra Drzymalska). Their relationship is soon sundered. As animal rights protesters picket the circus, creditors arrive and seize its few animals: two camels and Eo.

Thus begins an odyssey that leads the beast (played by six gray donkeys) through multiple owners and circumstances, including several episodes in which he (or she) meanders freely. Among these are a few comic moments and many lovely passages, captured splendidly by Michal Dymek's expressionistic camerawork. But the mood can shift suddenly and violently, as when a nighttime idyll in a forest full of unthreatening creatures is disrupted by the lights and sounds of hunters' laser-guided rifles.

Eo experiences, mostly as an observer but sometimes as a victim, the brutality of a fur farm, a slaughterhouse, and a vicious and pointless battle between rival tribes of soccer hooligans. He also passes through landscapes defeated and degraded by human activity, hauling junk through a sprawling scrapyard and wandering alone past towering windmills and a massive dam. Foxes and birds are among the collateral damage Eo encounters.

The donkey also wonderingly observes horses gamboling in a field, glimpsed through the narrow window of a transport van, and tropical fish in a tank in a store window. Nature is everywhere encircled and entrapped.

These sequences, often shown in wide shots, depict objective reality. But much of the movie is rendered in close-up or dreamlike subjectivity in an apparent attempt to visualize Eo's experience of the universe. (In one curious reverie, the donkey seems to turn into a robot.) Pawel Mykietyn's score shifts from whispery to epic and is sometimes interrupted by the EDM, opera or heavy metal played by the mostly coarse human characters.

The film's speedy edits and choppy continuity function as parallel means of simulating the animal's limited understanding of his travels and travails. "Eo" is gorgeous and mysterious, more attuned to sensation than to narrative. If viewers sometimes feel lost, that just brings them closer to the donkey's consciousness.

Skolimowski and producer/co-scripter Ewa Piaskowska (the director's wife) make one wrong move toward the film's end, after Eo has been transported to an estate in Italy by a sympathetic traveler (Lorenzo Zurzolo). The donkey grazes in the distance while Isabelle Huppert makes a cameo in a brief scene that is perhaps designed to link "Eo" to the French cinematic tradition from which it sprang. But the episode merely distracts from the tale. No wonder the animal takes his leave as soon as he notices an open gate.

Nearly everything else in "Eo" is flawlessly conceived and executed. The director, who's made such first-rate if not widely seen films as 1970's "Deep End" and 1982's "Moonlighting," is still an assured and audacious filmmaker. Eo's fate is both shocking and unsurprising, but the sadness of the donkey's saga is at least partly assuaged by the rapturous empathy with which it's told.

"Eo," from Polish director Jerzy Skolimowski, follows a gray donkey (played by six animals) on an odyssey through multiple owners and circumstances. Along the way come a few comic moments and many lovely passages, though the mood can shift suddenly and violently.

Unrated. At the AFI Silver Theatre. Contains violence against animals, including humans. In Polish, Italian, English and French with subtitles. 88 minutes.

Ratings guide

Masterpiece ★★★★

Very good ★★★☆

Okay ★★☆☆

Poor ★☆☆☆

Plus

Common Sense Media **21**

Opening next week

Damien Chazelle's **Babylon** is a drama set in Hollywood at the dawn of talkies.

Brendan Fraser plays an obese recluse in Darren Aronofsky's **The Whale**.

Naomi Ackie plays Whitney Houston in the music biopic **Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody**.

Antonio Banderas is back as the voice of the swashbuckling cat in the animated "Shrek" sequel **Puss in Boots: The Last Wish**.

The documentary **Wildcat** centers on the relationship between a young military veteran with PTSD and an orphaned baby ocelot.

AVATAR FROM 18

It's at this point that the visual wonders of "The Way of Water" come fully into frame, with Cameron and his visual effects team creating gorgeous underwater vistas of corals, undulating filaments, neon-colored plant life and creatures that float, soar, lunge and balletically breach. The most exhilarating moments of the film come by way of Kiri's explorations of her new habitat and the adventures of her siblings, who befriend similarly feisty but finned and green-skinned Metkayina kids (their parents are played by Cliff Curtis and Kate Winslet). "Finding Nemo" has nothing on the world that Cameron builds undersea, with a far more vibrant color palette and arresting detail than he evinced in the first installment.

The irony of "The Way of Water" is that, for all its kid-centric action, it's most likely far too intense for anyone under 10. While the Sullys learn how to hold their breath and Lo'ak befriends a whalelike leviathan who's just as misunderstood as he is, Quaritch is on their trail, leaving nothing but suffering and destruction in his wake. Once he colludes with a greedy boat captain, played with sleazy relish by Brendan Cowell, the twin evils of militarism and capitalism create a thrashing, deeply disquieting tableau of gruesome cruelty and carnage — violence that reaches its peak in a loud, protracted fight sequence that forms the movie's cacophonous climax.

If wanton destruction punctuated by moments of psychedelic visual splendor and New Age-y philosophizing is your bag, "The Way of Water" provides plenty of value. But as far as the computer-generated techniques have come in the intervening years, there are sequences that are shockingly unattractive, especially live-action scenes whose high frame rate gives them the cheesy, motion-smoothed look of a bad soap opera.

The action in "The Way of Water" is ultimately overwhelming, betraying an uncomfortable truth about Cameron: He might preach environmentalism and balance, calling on Indigenous peoples for their gentle worldviews and material culture. But at heart, he's just as aggressive and all-commanding as the bad guys he portrays with such oorah swagger. As the annihilation reached its punishingly fevered pitch at a recent screening, the crashes and rumbles and explosions weren't just deafening, they were palpable to the point that I wondered who was kicking my seat. Then I realized: It was James Cameron all along.

PG-13. At area theaters. Contains sequences of strong violence and intense action, partial nudity, and some strong language. 192 minutes.



PHOTOS BY 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS



ABOVE: Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), left, and Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) return in "Avatar: The Way of Water." LEFT: Sigourney Weaver delivers an impressively convincing portrayal of the young Kiri, left, the child of her character Grace Augustine, right.

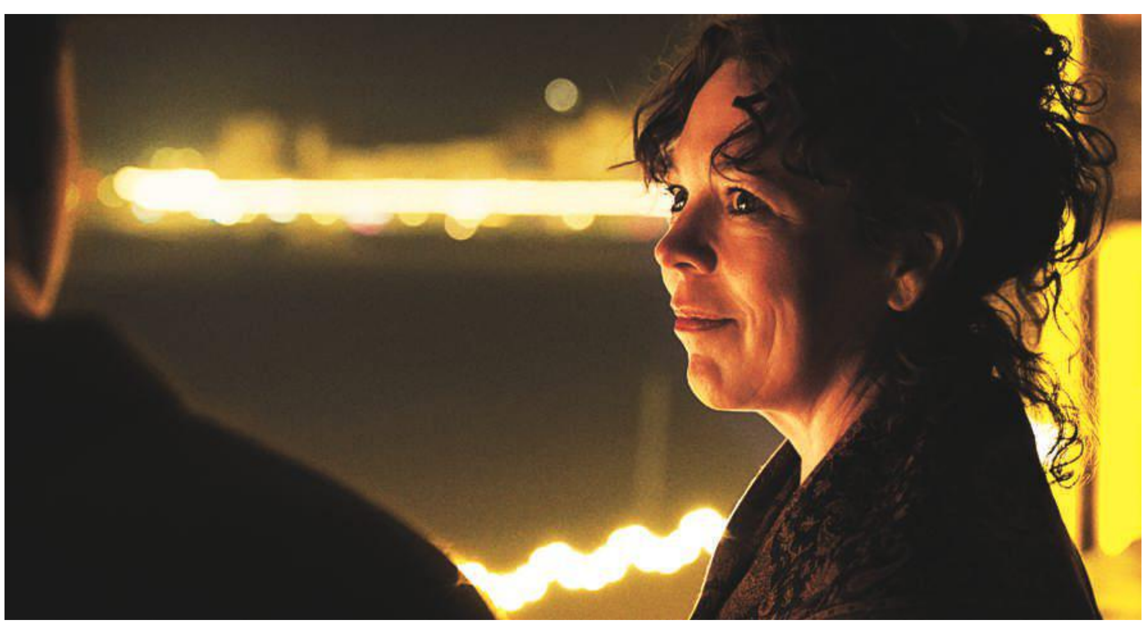
ALSO PLAYING

Star ratings are from Post reviews; go to *washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/movies* for the full-length reviews. For showtimes and directories, see the Movie Directory.

★★★☆ AFTERSUN
Paul Mescal plays a troubled yet loving young father in Charlotte Wells's "emotionally autobiographical" directorial debut. (R, 101 minutes)

★★★☆ ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED
Documentarian Laura Poitras presents a compelling, if one-sided, portrait of the photographer and activist Nan Goldin. (Unrated, 117 minutes)

★★☆☆ THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN
Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson reunite with "In Bruges" filmmaker Martin McDonagh in this tale of friendship gone violently awry. (R, 114 minutes)



SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

Olivia Colman delivers a delicate yet ferocious performance in Sam Mendes's "Empire of Light."

★★½☆ BLACK ADAM
Moral questions spice up DC Comics' otherwise predictable action movie, starring Dwayne Johnson as the title character. (PG-13, 118 minutes, in English and the ancient language of the Kahndaq people, with some subtitles)

★★☆☆ BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER
Marvel sequel covers up its inability to move on by resorting to repetitive action sequences, maudlin emotion and a.n uninvolving, occasionally incoherent story. (PG-13, 161 minutes, in English, Wakandan, Mayan, Spanish and French with some subtitles)

★½☆☆ BONES AND ALL
Luca Guadagnino's adaptation of a young-adult novel about teen cannibals in love is a B-picture with art house pretensions. (R, 130 minutes)

★★½☆ DEVOTION
Jonathan Majors and Glen Powell star in fact-based tale of a friendship between Korean War aviators. (PG-13, 138 minutes, in English and some French and Korean with subtitles)

★★☆☆ EMANCIPATION
Will Smith plays a man fleeing the horrors of slavery in Antoine Fuqua's Civil War chase film. (R, 132 minutes)

★★★½ EMPIRE OF LIGHT
Olivia Colman delivers a delicate yet ferocious performance at the

SEE **MOVIES** ON **23**

Common Sense Media What parents need to know

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13)

Age 13+

Long but dazzling return to Pandora has sci-fi violence.

"Avatar: The Way of Water" is the long-awaited sequel to James Cameron's epic 2009 megahit "Avatar." The sequel returns to Pandora several years after Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) rallied the indigenous Na'vi clans against the corrupt "Sky People" (colonizing humans trying to mine and extract Pandora's resources). Jake and his mate, Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), now have four children and decide to save their forest clan by seeking refuge for their family among the island-dwelling Metkayina clan. Filmed mostly underwater, the three-hour-plus film is visually striking. And, like the first movie, it has sci-fi action violence, with weapons, hand-to-hand combat and the hunting of a sacred whalelike creature. The story also features adolescent flirting, hand-holding and crushes, as well as marital affection. Occasional strong language includes many uses of "s---," "b----" and "a--," as well as one "f---." Like the first movie, this one has a strong anti-imperialist message, plus environmental and multicultural themes that stress the importance of tolerance, acceptance and honest communication. (192 minutes)

In theaters.

Free Puppies! (Unrated)

STREAMING

Age 4+

Insightful, moving doc about rescuing dogs in the South.

"Free Puppies!" is a documentary about a network of committed volunteers who help/rescue dogs from rural and underserved areas in the South. They work to place them in foster and forever homes or to get them spayed or neutered while staying in their existing homes. Expect a couple of potentially upsetting scenes between the volunteers and two men who have a possible hoarding issue with their animals. One gets teary-eyed while discussing Vietnam and ends up crying about it. He also yells "f---" at his brother. There are also some tough conversations about shelters that have to euthanize animals and how "no kill" shelters only take cute, well-behaved, "adoptable" dogs. This is a thought-provoking documentary that not only pays tribute to dog rescuers but promotes compassion, empathy and responsible animal care. (70 minutes)

Available on demand.



FIRST RUN FEATURES



NETFLIX



BRIAN ROEDEL/DISNEY

ABOVE: Albert on Wheels, a high-profile rescue dog featured in the documentary "Free Puppies!" CENTER LEFT: Sonic the Hedgehog (voice of Deven Mack), center, in the animated series "Sonic Prime." BELOW LEFT: Lisette Olivera as master puzzle solver Jess Valenzuela in "National Treasure: Edge of History," which continues the films' adventures.

Sonic Prime (TV-Y7)

STREAMING

Age 7+

Fun, frenetic animated series touts teamwork, has violence.

"Sonic Prime" is an animated series based on the video game and movie franchise. Sonic (voice of Deven Mack) is once again true to his name, providing tons of high-speed energy to his frenetic battles with baddies. Expect lots of cartoonish violence, including scary robots that shoot fireballs. Sonic is often in peril, and there are intense situations. Language includes insults like "loser," "big butt," "jerks" and "blockhead." A character talks about his experience being bullied as a kid. Friendship and teamwork are the big themes in this fast-paced sci-fi series. (Eight 20- to 40-minute episodes)

Available on Netflix.

National Treasure: Edge of History (TV-14)

STREAMING

Age 10+

Fun, light treasure-hunting series has adventure, violence.

"National Treasure: Edge of History" is a series that continues the films' treasure-hunting adventures. The new, younger cast includes a Latina hero, master puzzle solver Jess Valenzuela (Lisette Olivera), who follows in her father's footsteps in the search for a set of ancient artifacts. Expect some violence, including fistfights, guns, swordplay, a person set on fire and a kidnapping. Language is mostly mild, but words like "sucks" and "lame" are used. Characters are in relationships, and there are some romantic moments. Families will have lots of opportunities to talk about the plight of undocumented people in the U.S. (Jess is a Dreamer) and how perseverance and teamwork can help people reach their goals. (10 45-minute episodes)

Available on Disney Plus.

Common Sense Media helps families make smart media choices. Go to commonsensemedia.org for age-based and educational ratings and reviews for movies, games, apps, TV shows, websites and books.

MOVIE DIRECTORY

DISTRICT

AMC Georgetown 14
3111 K Street N.W.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 12:00-4:15-8:30-12:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:10-3:45-4:45-7:15-8:15-10:45
She Said (R) CC: 11:20-4:55
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:50-10:30
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 1:35
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 4:05-7:20-10:35
Strange World (PG) CC: 1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
The Menu (R) CC: 12:05-2:40-5:05-8:05-10:20
Bones and All (R) CC: 7:45-10:45
Empire of Light (R) CC: 11:20-4:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 10:30-11:00-3:15-7:00-7:30-8:00-11:15-11:45
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:00-2:15-6:30-10:45
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 1:00-5:00-9:00
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) OC: 2:15
Violent Night (R) CC: 5:15-7:40-10:40
The Fabelmans (PG-13) OC: 12:40
Empire of Light (R) OC: 2:05
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) OC: 2:45
Violent Night (R) OC: 2:20

Angelika Pop-Up at Union Market
550 Penn St. NE - Unit E

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-12:00-1:00-3:00-4:00-7:00-8:00-9:00; 5:00

Avalon Theatre
5612 Connecticut Ave.

Tár (R) 4:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 1:00-4:15-7:30
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 1:15-7:45

Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema
807 V Street Northwest

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 12:10-12:40-1:10-1:20-2:50-3:50-4:20-4:50-6:30-7:30-8:00-8:30-9:35-10:10
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:20-3:40-7:00-10:05
The Menu (R) 12:30-5:00-7:20

Landmark E Street Cinema
555 11th Street NW

Batman Returns (1992) (PG-13) 11:55
The Room (2003) (R) 11:55
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:30-12:00-12:30-2:45-3:30-4:00-4:30-7:30-8:00-8:30-9:15
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 3:30
Tár (R) 12:10-6:45-10:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 12:15-3:45-7:00-10:00
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 1:15-4:15-7:10-9:35
White Noise (R) 11:45-6:30
Empire of Light (R) 1:00-3:30-7:15-9:45

Regal Gallery Place
701 Seventh Street NW

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:30-10:30-11:00-11:30-12:00-12:30-1:00-1:45-2:00-3:00-3:30-4:00-5:00-5:30-6:15-6:30-7:30-8:00-8:30-9:00-9:30-9:45-10:25-10:40
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 9:15-2:45-5:45-6:45-9:50-10:25
Black Adam (PG-13) 11:15AM
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 10:10AM
Violent Night (R) 10:20-1:15-4:15-7:15-10:20
Strange World (PG) 9:45AM
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 9:00-1:30-6:00-10:10
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) OC: 4:30
The Menu (R) 10:45-2:15-5:15-8:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) OC: 1:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:00-2:30-7:00

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road

Scrooge (1970) (G) 11:40AM
Short Film Program (NR) 5:45
Le Chemin du bonheur 12:45
Rimini (Böse Spiele) 7:00
EO 2:10-4:10-6:10-8:10
Rebel 3:00
Empire of Light (R) 1:40-4:15-6:45-9:10
Will-o'-the-Wisp (Fo-go-Fátuo) 9:20
Elf (PG) 11:20AM

AMC Academy 8
6198 Greenbelt Road

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 1:00-5:00-9:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 10:30-1:15-4:30-7:15-10:40
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:15-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:45
Strange World (PG) CC: 10:45-2:00-4:45-8:10-10:15
The Menu (R) CC: 11:30-2:30-5:15-7:50-10:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:00-12:00-3:00-4:00-7:00-8:00-11:00

AMC Annapolis Mall 11
1020 Annapolis Mall Road

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 10:00-10:30-11:00-12:00-1:00-2:00-2:30-3:00-4:00-5:00-6:00-6:30-7:00-7:30-8:00-9:00-10:00-10:30-11:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:15-3:45-7:15-9:30
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 10:10-3:20-9:45
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 4:30
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 12:10-6:15
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:40-10:20
Strange World (PG) CC: 11:10-1:40-4:15-6:45-9:15
The Menu (R) CC: 11:10-1:45-4:20-7:10-10:45

AMC Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Rd.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 12:15-4:15-8:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 10:00-12:45-4:00-7:10-9:50
Violent Night (R) CC: 10:45-1:40-4:30-7:30-10:40
Strange World (PG) CC: 10:15-1:30-4:40-7:20-10:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 10:30-11:30-2:30-3:30-6:30-7:30-10:30

AMC Columbia 14
10300 Little Patuxent Pkwy.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 10:45-3:00-6:45-10:30
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 1:10-10:35
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 8:00-12:15-4:30-8:45
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 9:50-7:15
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 11:40-3:20-6:50-10:10
Strange World (PG) CC: 10:50-12:00-2:30-4:15-7:00-9:40
The Menu (R) CC: 11:00-2:00-5:00-8:00-11:00
Empire of Light (R) CC: 10:20-1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 9:00-10:30-11:45-2:45-4:00-5:30-7:00-8:15-9:45-11:15
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:00-2:15-6:30-10:45
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:15-2:15-5:15-8:15-11:15
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 11:00-3:15-7:30-10:15-11:45
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) OC: 1:15

AMC DINE-IN Rio Cinemas 18
9811 Washingtonian Ctr.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 10:15-11:15-2:15-3:15-6:15-7:15-10:15-11:15
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 9:30-10:30-11:00-12:00-2:00-3:00-3:30-4:00-4:30-6:30-7:30-8:00-9:00-10:00-11:00
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 9:45-10:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 10:10-4:30
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 1:30-8:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 10:45-2:45-6:45-10:25
Strange World (PG) CC: 9:15-10:30-1:15-4:15-7:00-10:45
The Menu (R) CC: 9:45-11:30-2:30-5:15-8:15-11:15
Empire of Light (R) CC: 10:15-4:15-7:15-10:15
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:30-12:30-1:00-5:00-5:30-8:30-9:30
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:00-2:30-7:00-11:30
Violent Night (R) CC: 12:00-3:00-6:00-8:45-11:30
Empire of Light (R) OC: 1:15
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 9:00-1:30-6:00-10:30; 12:15

AMC Loews St. Charles Town Ctr. 9
11115 Mall Circle

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 1:00-5:15-9:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 11:15-3:00-6:45-10:30
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:45-2:30-5:15-8:00-10:45
Strange World (PG) CC: 10:45-1:15-3:45-6:15-9:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 10:00-11:00-12:00-2:15-3:15-4:15-6:30-7:30-8:30-10:45

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (PG-13) CC: 1:15-10:15
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 12:15-4:00-7:00-10:45
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 1:00-5:15-6:00-9:00-9:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:15-1:15-3:45-4:45-7:15-8:30-10:00
Strange World (PG) CC: 12:00-1:45-4:30-6:15-9:45
Violent Night (R) CC: 12:45-3:30-7:00-10:45
The Menu (R) CC: 12:45-3:30-6:15-9:15
Empire of Light (R) CC: 1:30-4:15-7:15-10:15
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 2:30-6:45-7:30
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 12:00-4:15-8:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) OC: 3:15

AMC Montgomery 16
7101 Democracy Boulevard

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:30-2:30-4:30-6:30-8:30-10:30
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 12:00-1:00-2:00-3:15-3:45-4:15-5:15-6:15-7:30-8:00-8:30-9:30-10:30
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 1:45-8:00
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) CC: 12:45-2:00-4:45-7:30-10:15
She Said (R) CC: 5:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 1:30-8:15
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 5:00
Strange World (PG) CC: 12:30-1:45-4:30-7:15-10:00
The Menu (R) CC: 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:00
Violent Night (R) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:45
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 12:00-3:30-7:00-10:25
Empire of Light (R) CC: 1:30-4:35-7:25-10:15

Cinemark Egyptian 24 and XD
7000 Arundel Mills Circle

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:00-1:45-5:30-9:10
Strange World (PG) 10:15AM
Prey for the Devil (PG-13) 10:25AM
Private Watch Party 11:00-3:00
Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical (PG) 9:55-12:10-6:30
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 11:10AM
The Menu (R) 11:05-2:00-4:55-7:40-10:35
Empire of Light (R) 10:10-1:00-3:50-6:40-9:40
Emancipation (R) 3:05-9:45
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) XD: 10:30-2:45-7:00-11:15
Spirited Sing-A-Long 10:20-1:25
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-3:15-7:30
Black Adam (PG-13) 10:05-1:10-4:15-7:20-10:30
Violent Night (R) 10:55-1:55-4:45-7:35-10:25
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) XD: 11:30-3:45-8:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:45-2:30-3:00-6:45-7:15-7:45-11:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 9:55-11:45-12:00-12:35-12:50-1:05-1:40-2:10-4:00-4:15-4:30-4:50-5:05-5:20-5:55-6:25-8:15-8:30-8:45-9:05-9:20-9:35-10:10-10:40
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-3:15-7:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) XD: 10:30-2:45-7:00-11:15

Cinépolis Gaithersburg
629 Center Point Way

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 1:20-3:00-4:00-6:00-7:40-8:10-8:40-10:40
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 4:30-9:10
Violent Night (R) 3:30-7:20-10:20
The Menu (R) 5:15-11:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:20-1:50-2:20-5:00-6:30-7:00-9:40

Hoyt's West Nursery Cinema 14
1591 West Nursery Road

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:00-2:50-4:25-6:15-7:50-9:40
Black Adam (PG-13) 1:10-3:55-6:40-9:35
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) 1:35-4:05-6:45-9:15
The Woman King (PG-13) 1:20-3:50-6:50-9:50
Devotion (PG-13) 1:05-4:10-7:00-9:45
Violent Night (R) 1:15-4:40-7:30-9:55
Till (PG-13) 1:30-3:40-9:30
Strange World (PG) 1:25-4:20-6:55-9:20
The Menu (R) 1:45-4:30-7:10-10:00
Till (PG-13) 6:35
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 1:00-2:00-4:00-5:05-6:20-8:10-9:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 3:00-7:20

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 12:00-12:30-1:30-4:00-4:30-6:00-8:00-8:30-9:00-9:30
She Said (R) 1:00-3:50-6:45
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 1:20
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 1:10-4:20-7:45-9:45
The Menu (R) 4:00-6:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:30-3:15-7:15
Empire of Light (R) 1:45-4:30-7:00-9:30

Landmark at Annapolis Harbour Center
2474 Solomons Island Road Unit H-1

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 1:00-2:00-3:30-6:00-7:30-8:45-9:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:40-4:00-7:20-9:30
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 1:45
Devotion (PG-13) 4:15
Violent Night (R) 1:10-4:50-7:10-9:55
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 12:50-3:40-6:45-9:50
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 1:05-6:30
The Menu (R) 4:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:30-3:00-4:30-7:00-8:30

Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway

Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 5:15-8:15
All the Beauty and the Bloodshed 5:00-8:00

Phoenix Theatres Marlow 6
3899 Branch Avenue

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 2:00-6:00-10:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 2:30-6:10-9:30
Violent Night (R) 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10
Strange World (PG) 1:45-4:15-6:45-9:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:00-12:00-3:00-4:00-7:00-8:00-11:00

Regal Bowie
15200 Major Lansdale Blvd.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 2:00-2:30-3:10-3:30-4:00-4:30-5:10-6:30-7:00-7:40-8:00-8:30-9:00-9:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 1:30-3:00-6:35-9:40
Black Adam (PG-13) 1:00
Violent Night (R) 1:20-3:40-6:40-10:15
The Menu (R) 1:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 1:30-6:00-10:20

Regal Cinemas Majestic Stadium 20 & IMAX
900 Ellsworth Drive

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:30-9:50-10:30-10:50-11:30-11:50-12:10-12:50-1:10-1:45-2:15-2:25-2:45-3:15-3:55-4:25-5:15-5:35-6:20-6:40-6:50-7:20-7:40-8:20; 8:40-9:00-9:40-10:00-10:45-11:05
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 9:20-1:00-3:45-4:45-7:30-8:30-11:15
Black Adam (PG-13) 11:15
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 11:20AM
Violent Night (R) 12:20-3:05-5:50-8:50
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 9:05-12:40-4:10-7:50-11:20
Strange World (PG) 9:00-11:40-2:20-5:05-7:45-10:25
The Menu (R) 11:00-2:10-5:10-8:10-11:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:10-11:10-2:35-3:25-7:00-8:00-11:25
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) OC: 4:15
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:35-5:00-9:25
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 9:10-1:35-6:00-10:25

Regal Germantown
20000 Century Blvd.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-12:00-12:40-1:40-2:00-2:20-2:40-3:20-3:40-4:40-5:00-6:00-6:20-6:40-7:00-7:40-8:00-8:40-9:20-10:20-10:40-11:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:10-12:20-2:50-6:30-10:30
Black Adam (PG-13) 11:30-9:00
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) 11:50AM
Violent Night (R) 10:50-1:50-4:50-7:50-10:50
Strange World (PG) 11:20-12:30-3:30-6:10-8:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:40-3:00-7:20
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) OC: 4:20
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:40-4:00-8:20

Regal Hyattsville Royale
6505 America Blvd.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:30-12:30-1:00-1:30-2:00-2:30-3:30-3:40-5:00-5:30-6:00-6:30-7:00-8:00-9:30-10:00-10:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:40-3:15-6:50-10:25
Black Adam (PG-13) 11:20AM
Violent Night (R) 11:10-12:50-3:50-7:20-10:20
Strange World (PG) 12:20-3:40-6:40-9:50
The Menu (R) 12:40-3:20-7:40-10:15
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:00-4:30-9:00; 11:00-3:00-7:30

Regal Laurel Towne Centre
14716 Baltimore Avenue

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:40-2:20-3:20-6:10-7:30-9:50-11:10
Black Adam (PG-13) 12:40
Violent Night (R) 11:20-2:10-4:50-7:40-10:20
Strange World (PG) 10:50-4:10-7:10-10:10
The Menu (R) 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:30
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:30-12:00-1:00-1:30-4:00-4:30-5:30-6:00-8:30-9:00-10:00-10:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:30-11:00-2:00-2:30-3:30-6:30-7:00-8:00-11:00-11:15

Regal Rockville Center
199 E Montgomery Ave.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:40-11:10-11:40-12:10-1:20-3:00-3:30-4:00-4:30-5:30-6:00-7:30-8:00-8:50-9:20-9:50-10:20
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:30-3:20-7:10-11:00
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) 2:20
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 11:20AM
Violent Night (R) 11:00-2:10-5:00-7:50-11:05
The Menu (R) 10:00-1:00-3:40-6:20-9:20
Empire of Light (R) 10:30-1:30-4:40-7:40-10:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:10-1:50-2:30-6:30-7:00-10:50-11:10

Regal UA Snowden Square
9161 Commerce Ctr. Dr.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 6:20-10:45
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 10:50AM
Violent Night (R) 10:20-1:20-4:10-7:10-10:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 11:20-2:50-6:30-10:20
Strange World (PG) 11:25-2:10-4:50-7:40-10:30
The Menu (R) 9:40-12:30-3:20-6:10-9:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:50-3:25-7:50
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:30-12:20-12:50-1:25-3:05-3:55-4:35-5:05-5:50-7:20-8:20-8:50-9:20-10:10
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:10-2:00-3:40-5:40-7:30-9:30-11:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:00-2:25-6:50-11:15

Regal Waugh Chapel & IMAX
1419 South Main Chapel Way

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:00-2:40-3:30-6:20-10:00
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 9:50-12:50
Violent Night (R) 10:50-1:40-4:40-7:20-9:50
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 11:30-3:10-6:40-10:10
Strange World (PG) 10:00-10:40-12:40-1:20-4:10-6:50-9:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:10-11:10-2:30-3:30-7:00-8:00
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 9:10-1:30-6:00-10:20
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:40-11:40-12:10-2:00-4:00-4:30-6:30-8:30-9:00

Regal Westview & IMAX
5243 Buckeystown Pike

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:30-12:10-12:40-1:20-2:10-2:50-3:10-4:30-5:40-7:10-7:30-8:20-8:50-9:20-9:50-10:10
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:20-3:00-6:40-10:20
Violent Night (R) 10:50-1:40-4:40-7:40-10:30
Strange World (PG) 11:30-2:00-4:50
The Menu (R) 11:40AM
I Heard the Bells 11:00-7:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 9:30-1:50-6:20-10:40
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) OC: 5:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:00-11:10-2:30-3:30-6:50-7:50-11:10

Xscape Theatres Brandywine 14
7710 Matapeake Business Dr.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: (!) 10:00-2:00-6:00-10:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: (!) 10:40-2:40-6:40-10:40

iPic Pike & Rose
11830 Grand Park Ave.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) (!) 10:00-10:30-11:00-11:30-1:00-2:00-3:00-3:30-5:30-6:30-7:30-8:15-10:00-11:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:15-2:30-6:45-10:15
Devotion (PG-13) 10:00AM
Violent Night (R) 1:15-4:30-7:45-11:00
The Menu (R) 10:00-4:15-7:15-10:45
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) (!) 1:30-6:00-10:30

VIRGINIA

AMC Courthouse Plaza 8
2150 Clarendon Blvd.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 11:30-3:30-7:30-11:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:10-3:40-7:10-10:30
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 1:30-7:20
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 10:50-4:40-10:45
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:50-2:30-5:10-8:00-10:40
The Menu (R) CC: 10:20-11:40-2:20-5:00-7:40-10:20
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 10:00-11:00-1:00-2:00-3:00-5:00-6:00-7:00-9:00-10:00-11:00

AMC Hoffman Center 22
206 Swamp Fox Rd.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 11:00-12:15-12:30-3:10-4:45-7:15-9:00-11:30
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 11:30-6:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 10:00-10:30-1:45-2:15-5:30-6:00-9:15-9:45
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) CC: 1:45-7:45
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 1:00-7:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 10:30-4:30-10:30
Till (PG-13) CC: 10:00-3:45-9:45
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 11:00-2:30-6:00-9:30
Strange World (PG) CC: 10:00-12:45-3:30-6:15-9:00
The Menu (R) CC: 11:15-2:00-4:45-7:30-10:15
Bones and All (R) CC: 2:45-9:00
Empire of Light (R) CC: 10:00-1:00-4:00-6:45-9:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 12:00-4:10-8:30
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:00-2:10-6:15-10:30
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:15-2:00-4:45-7:30-10:15
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 10:30-11:30-1:00-1:30-2:45-3:45-4:30-5:45-7:00-8:00-8:45-9:30-10:00-11:10; 5:15; 1:15-5:30-9:45

AMC Potomac Mills 18
2700 Potomac Mills Cir.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 12:45-5:00-9:15
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 11:20-2:20-5:20-8:20-11:20
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 11:40-12:30-3:20-4:30-7:00-8:10-10:40-11:50
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 7:40
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 11:45-3:00-6:15-9:40
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 12:15-3:45-7:10-10:35
Strange World (PG) CC: 12:30-3:10-6:00-8:45-11:20
The Menu (R) CC: 11:20-2:00-4:40-7:20-10:00
Empire of Light (R) CC: 11:00-4:50-7:45-10:45
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:45-4:00-8:15-12:30
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:45-3:00-7:15-11:30
Violent Night (R) CC: 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:30-12:20
Empire of Light (R) OC: 1:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:00-12:00-1:45-3:15-3:30-4:15-6:00-7:30-7:45-8:00-8:30-10:15-11:45-12:00-12:15; 11:15-3:45

AMC Shirlington 7
2772 South Randolph St.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 10:10-2:20-6:30-10:40
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:10-3:40-7:10-10:40
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 12:40-4:00-7:20-10:45
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:40-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30
The Menu (R) CC: 12:00-2:40-5:20-8:00-10:35
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:00-11:20-3:00-3:25-7:00-7:30-11:00-11:30

AMC Tysons Corner 16
7850e Tysons Corner Ctr.

Elf (PG) CC: 10:45AM
The Polar Express (G) CC: 10:00AM
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 12:40AM
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 10:20-11:20-3:25-4:55-7:15-8:40-10:55-12:20
Black Adam (PG-13) CC: 4:00
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) CC: 10:30-1:20
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 2:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 12:05-3:30-7:05-10:25-11:55
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 11:10-2:45-6:10-9:55
Strange World (PG) CC: 10:05-12:50-3:35-6:20-9:05
The Menu (R) CC: 10:10-12:55-3:40-6:25-9:15-12:00
Empire of Light (R) CC: 10:25-4:05-6:55-9:45-12:35
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 12:00-4:15-8:30
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:00-2:15-6:30-10:45
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 11:00-3:15-7:30-11:45
Violent Night (R) CC: 10:15-1:05-3:50-6:40-9:40-12:30
Empire of Light (R) OC: 1:15
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:30-12:45-1:30-3:45-5:05-7:00-8:00-9:20-10:00-11:15-12:15; 5:45

AMC Worldgate 9
13025 Worldgate Drive

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 4:30-7:00-8:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 4:45-8:15
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 5:30
Violent Night (R) CC: 5:00-8:45
The Menu (R) CC: 4:15-7:45
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 4:00-5:00-6:00-8:00-9:00

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - One Loudoun
20575 East Hampton Plaza

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:00-12:30-1:30-2:00-2:30-4:00-5:00-6:00-6:30-7:00-8:30-9:30
Elf (PG) 10:30AM
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:00-3:30-8:00; 1:00-5:30-10:00
Violent Night (R) 10:15-10:45-1:15-4:30-7:30-10:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:15-2:15-6:15-10:15

Angelika Film Center Mosaic
2911 District Ave

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-1:00-3:00-5:00-7:00-9:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:15-1:35-5:15-8:45-9:45
She Said (R) 1:45-7:20
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 10:45-12:45-4:05-7:15-10:15
The Menu (R) 10:30-2:05-4:30-7:10-10:45
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 11:10-4:45-10:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:00-4:00-8:00; 10:00-2:00-6:00-10:00

CMX Village 14
1600 Village Market Boulevard

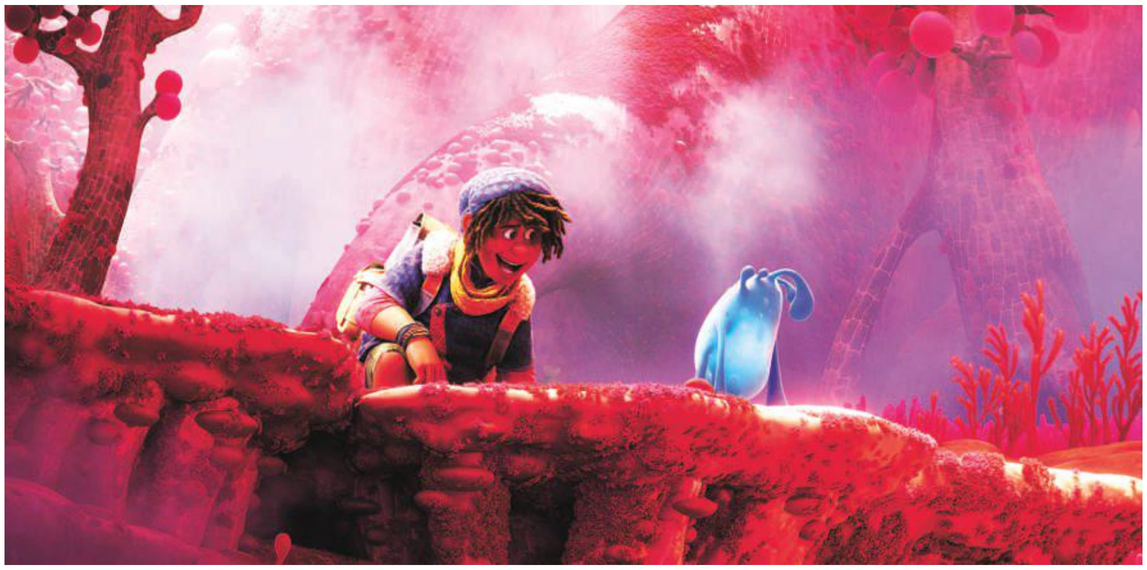
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) (!) 3:00-4:10-8:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) (!) 3:35-4:45-7:00-7:35-8:45

Cinema Arts Theatre
9650 Main St

The Fabelmans (PG-13) 10:00-1:00-4:10-7:20-10:10
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 9:45-12:05-7:40-10:00
The Menu (R) 12:10-2:35-4:30-9:15
Aftersun (2022-1) (R) 9:55-2:25-5:05-7:15
Empire of Light (R) 9:40-12:00-2:30-5:00-7:35-9:55
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:40-12:30-4:00-7:00-7:30-10:30
Devotion (PG-13) 1:10-4:15

Cinemark Centreville 12
6201 Multiplex Drive

Elf (PG) 11:45-2:20-4:55
Black Adam (PG-13) 7:40-10:45
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:40-11:20-2:55-3:35-7:10-7:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:40-3:20-7:00-10:40
Devotion (PG-13) 11:55-3:15-6:30-9:45
Violent Night (R) 11:15-2:10-5:05-8:00-10:55
Strange World (PG) 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:20-10:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:15-12:00-12:25-1:35-2:30-4:10-4:40-5:50-6:45-7:30-8:20-8:55-10:05-11:00
Spirited Sing-A-Long 10:20-1:25-4:30



WALT DISNEY ANIMATION STUDIOS

In "Strange World," Ethan Clade (voice of Jaboukie Young-White), part of a family of explorers, ends up in a fantastical place with strange creatures like a mischievous blue blob called Splat.



LINDA KÄLLERUS/FOCUS FEATURES

From left, Ben Aldridge, Jim Parsons, Sally Field and Bill Irwin in "Spoiler Alert," a dramedy based on Michael Ausiello's memoir.

MOVIES FROM 20

heart of Sam Mendes's tender and tear-soaked valentine to cinema. (R, 119 minutes)

★★★½ THE FABELMANS
Filmmaker Steven Spielberg's semi-autobiographical coming-of-age tale is both quintessentially honest and sentimental. (PG-13, 151 minutes)

★★½☆ THE MENU
Ralph Fiennes delivers a fiendish turn as an egotistical chef out for blood in Mark Mylod's satirical horror film. (R, 107 minutes)

★★★½ SHE SAID
Maria Schrader's film is an engrossing depiction of the New York Times reporting that brought down Harvey Weinstein and ignited the #MeToo movement. (R, 129 minutes)

★★★☆ SPOILER ALERT
Jim Parsons and Ben Aldridge star in a romantic dramedy based on Michael Ausiello's memoir of life with husband Kit Cowan. (PG-13, 112 minutes)

★★☆☆ STRANGE WORLD
The Disney Animation adventure is visually stunning but hamstrung by a basic story and thin characters. (PG, 112 minutes)

★★★★ TÁR
Cate Blanchett has created the most indelible movie character this year, a renowned composer-conductor whose rarefied world shatters. (R, 153 minutes)



ORION PICTURES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Danielle Deadwyler, left, and Jalyn Hall in "Till." Deadwyler's performance is Oscar-worthy as the mother of Emmett Till, whose 1955 lynching helped spark the civil rights movement.

★★☆☆ TICKET TO PARADISE
George Clooney and Julia Roberts elevate this cliched romantic comedy about bickering ex-spouses, but barely. (PG-13, 104 minutes)

★★★★ TILL
Danielle Deadwyler's performance is Oscar-worthy as the mother of Emmett Till, whose 1955 lynching helped spark the civil rights movement. (PG-13, 130 minutes)

★★½☆ VIOLENT NIGHT
David Harbour plays a decidedly un-jolly Santa Claus in this violent, noirish and occasionally hilarious home-invasion thriller. (R, 112 minutes)

★★★½ THE WOMAN KING
As the leader of a legendary 19th-century African women's fighting force, Viola Davis is nothing less than magnificent. (PG-13, 146 minutes)

MOVIE DIRECTORY

(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket

Friday, December 16, 2022
www.washingtonpost.com/movies

Cinemark Fairfax Corner and XD
11900 Palace Way

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:45-11:35-2:15-4:20-6:30-8:05-8:35-10:40
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:20-3:10-6:50-10:30
Devotion (PG-13) 10:40-1:55-5:10-8:25
Violent Night (R) 10:50-1:40-4:35-7:25-10:15
Strange World (PG) 10:35-11:25-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10
The Menu (R) 10:55-11:30-1:45-4:30-7:15-10:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) XD: 10:30-1:50-2:45-6:05-7:00-10:20-11:15
Spirited Sing-A-Long 4:15-7:20-10:25
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:05-12:05-12:40-1:15-3:20-3:50-4:55-5:30-7:35-9:10-9:45

Regal Ballston Quarter
671 North Glebe Road

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:10-11:40-12:10-12:40-2:30-3:00-3:30-4:00-4:30-5:00-6:30-7:00-7:30-8:00-8:30-9:00-9:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:20-3:10-6:50-10:30
Violent Night (R) 11:00-1:40-4:50-7:50-10:40
Strange World (PG) 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:00
The Menu (R) 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:40
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) 11:30-2:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 1:30-6:00-10:20

Regal Dulles Town Center
21100 Dulles Town Circle

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:10-12:35-2:05-3:05-3:35-4:30-5:00-6:30-7:30-8:00-9:00-9:25
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:30-3:15-6:45-10:15
Black Adam (PG-13) 10:40
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) 11:45AM
Violent Night (R) 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:35
Strange World (PG) 1:00-4:00-7:15-10:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 1:30-2:35-6:00-7:00-10:30
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) OC: 12:10

Regal Fairfax Towne Center
4110 West Ox Road

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:20-12:40-1:50-2:30-6:10-7:00-9:20-10:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:30-3:20-6:50-10:20
Violent Night (R) 11:00-1:00-3:50-6:40-9:40
Strange World (PG) 12:00-3:40-6:20-9:10
The Night Owl 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:50-11:50-3:00-4:00-7:30-8:20
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) OC: 4:50

Regal Fox & IMAX
22875 Brambleton Plaza

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:25-1:50-6:15-10:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 9:50-1:30-5:10-8:50
Violent Night (R) 11:00-2:00-4:50-7:45-10:40
Strange World (PG) 10:00-12:50-3:30-6:40-9:20
The Menu (R) 12:20
Drishyam 2 (Hindi) 3:00-6:20-9:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 9:10-1:40-6:00-10:30
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 10:10-2:40-7:00-11:30
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:40-10:45-11:40-12:10-12:40-12:55-2:10-3:10-4:10-4:40-5:00-5:20-6:30-7:30-8:30-9:00-9:30-9:45-11:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:30-2:20-6:50-10:20
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:10-1:10-3:40-5:40-8:00-10:00

Regal Kingstowne & RPX
5910 Kingstowne Towne Ctr.

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:10-1:35-6:00-10:25
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 9:20-12:50-4:20-7:50-11:10
Strange World (PG) 9:30-12:00-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15
The Menu (R) 9:50-3:30-6:20-9:15
Empire of Light (R) 11:30-3:20-7:10-10:45
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:10-2:35-7:00-11:25
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:40-10:40-11:40-12:10-1:05-2:05-3:05-4:05-4:35-5:30-6:30-7:30-8:30-9:00-9:55-10:55
Violent Night (R) 10:25-1:25-4:45-7:25-10:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:10-12:35-3:35-5:00-8:00-9:25
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 9:00-11:20-1:15-2:50-5:20-6:45-9:40-11:00

Regal Manassas & IMAX
11380 Bulloch Drive

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:40-10:40-12:10-12:35-1:50-2:05-3:05-4:05-4:35-5:00-5:30-6:15-7:30-8:30-9:00-9:25-9:55-10:40
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 9:00-4:50-8:40
Black Adam (PG-13) 10:35
Violent Night (R) 10:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
The Menu (R) 9:20-12:20-3:10-6:40-9:30
I Heard the Bells 10:30-1:40-4:40-7:40
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 9:10-1:35-6:00-10:25
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) OC: 11:40-1:05-6:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) OC: 12:50
Violent Night (R) OC: 1:20
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:10-11:10-3:35-7:00-8:00; 2:35

Regal Springfield Town Center
6859 Springfield Mall

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:40-11:40-12:10-12:40-1:30-2:00-4:00-4:30-5:00-6:00-6:20-8:30-9:00-9:30-10:10-10:40
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:30-2:10-6:40-10:50
Violent Night (R) 12:20-3:20-7:40-10:20
Strange World (PG) 11:50-2:40-6:10-9:10
The Menu (R) 12:00-3:50-6:50-9:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:10-10:40-11:10-2:30-3:00-3:30-6:50-7:20-7:50-11:10

Regal Virginia Gateway & RPX
8001 Gateway Promenade Place

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:40-2:05-6:30-10:50
Black Adam (PG-13) 10:05-1:40
Violent Night (R) 10:20-1:20-4:20-7:10-10:10
Strange World (PG) 10:00-12:50-3:50-6:50-9:40
The Menu (R) 10:15-1:50-4:30-11:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:40-11:40-1:05-3:05-4:05-4:35-5:30-7:30-8:30-9:00-9:55
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 9:50-11:00-2:40-6:40-7:20-10:20
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:10-11:10-12:35-1:35-2:35-3:35-5:00-6:00-7:00-8:00-9:25-10:30

Smithsonian - Airbus IMAX Theater
14390 Air & Space Museum Pkwy.

Journey to Space (2015) (NR) 10:20-12:20-2:20
To Fly! (1976) (NR) 11:00-1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 3:15-7:05

University Mall Theatre
10659-A Braddock Road

Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC; DVS: 12:30-4:00-7:00-7:30-10:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC; DVS: 12:45-4:10-7:15-10:15
Strange World (PG) CC; DVS: 12:10-2:20-4:30


Cirque Dreams
HOLIDAZE
BUY TICKETS NOW
DECEMBER 15 & 16 | 7:00 PM
DECEMBER 17 & 18 | 12:00 PM & 4:00 PM
THE ULTIMATE HOLIDAY GIFT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!
DON'T MISS THIS WHIMSICAL, BROADWAY-STYLE MUSICAL
INFUSED WITH CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS ARTISTRY!
THE THEATER
MGM
NATIONAL HARBOR
LIVE NATION

SAFEWAY

for U HOT DIGITAL SAVINGS

— DIGITAL ONLY —
Valid 12/16-12/22
**Coupon must be downloaded to your Safeway for U account prior to purchase. Limit 1 offer per household.



MEMBER PRICE **99¢** after digital coupon savings**

Signature SELECT® Granulated Sugar
4 lb. pkg. **LIMIT 1 OFFER**



MEMBER PRICE **1.99 ea.** after digital coupon savings**

Signature SELECT® Rising Crust or Thin Crust Pizza 12-33.5 oz. pkg.
or Open Nature® Pizza 10.2-17.5 oz. pkg., original, cauliflower or broccoli crust
LIMIT 1 OFFER



MEMBER PRICE **4.99 ea.** after digital coupon savings**

Oscar Mayer Bacon
12-16 oz. pkg. **LIMIT 4 OFFERS**



3 LB. BAG

MEMBER PRICE **2.99 ea.** after digital coupon savings**

Clementines
3 lb. bag **LIMIT 1 OFFER**



MEMBER PRICE **2 for $5** after digital coupon savings**

Tropicana Orange Juice
52 fl. oz. btl. **LIMIT 1 OFFER**



MEMBER PRICE **2.99 ea.** after digital coupon savings**

Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream or Non-Dairy Dessert, Breyers Ice Cream or Talenti Gelato or Sorbetto
10.9-48 fl. oz. **LIMIT 1 OFFER**

new!



MEMBER PRICE **8.99 lb.** after digital coupon savings**

Dietz & Watson Hot & Honey Chicken

for U Go Shopping. **Get Rewards***

Earn **3 Rewards***	Earn **5 Rewards***	Earn **7 Rewards***
Get $4 off your next purchase	**Get $7** off your next purchase	**Get $10** off your next purchase

Become a free member today!
Scan to download the Safeway app.
PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM
*Visit Safeway.com/foru for program details.

Prices Effective Friday, December 16 thru Thursday, December 22 Unless otherwise noted, offers in this ad are in effect at 6 a.m., Friday thru Thursday midnight at your local Safeway stores. LIMIT ONE COUPON PER ITEM PER DAY PER HOUSEHOLD. Prices and savings vary among store locations. Not all items or varieties available in all store locations. Quantities limited to inventory on hand and subject to availability. Sales in retail quantities only and we reserve the right to limit quantities sold to per customer. While supplies last. Unless otherwise noted, transactional limits may apply. On Buy One, Get One Free (BOGO) offers, customer must purchase the first item to receive the second item free. BOGO offers are not 1/2 price sales. If only a single item is purchased, the regular price applies. Manufacturers' coupons may only be used on purchased items, not on free items. All rebate offers are subject to applicable manufacturer's additional terms. Customer pays for applicable taxes, bottle/can deposit and bag fees, if any, on purchased and free items. We reserve the right to modify or cancel offers and/or correct typographical, pictorial and other ad or pricing errors. Prices for products ordered online generally are higher than in our physical store locations and may vary by fulfillment method chosen. Online promotions, discounts and offers may differ from those in our physical store locations. Offers are void or restricted where prohibited or limited by law and have no cash value. No cash back will be given.

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SAFEWAY

ALL SALE PRICES ARE MEMBER PRICE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Feed Joy
Savings to inspire joy

for U DIGITAL SAVINGS
LIMIT 1 PER HOUSEHOLD 12/9 – 12/25/22



MEMBER PRICE **4.99 lb.** with additional $25 purchase after digital coupon savings**

Beef Rib Roast
LIMIT 1 PER HOUSEHOLD 12/9 – 12/25/22



MEMBER PRICE **99¢ lb.** with additional $25 purchase after digital coupon savings**

Signature SELECT

Signature SELECT® Spiral Sliced Ham
LIMIT 1 PER HOUSEHOLD 12/9 – 12/25/22

— DIGITAL ONLY — Valid 12/16-12/22/22
**Coupon must be downloaded to your Safeway for U account prior to purchase. Limit 1 offer per household.

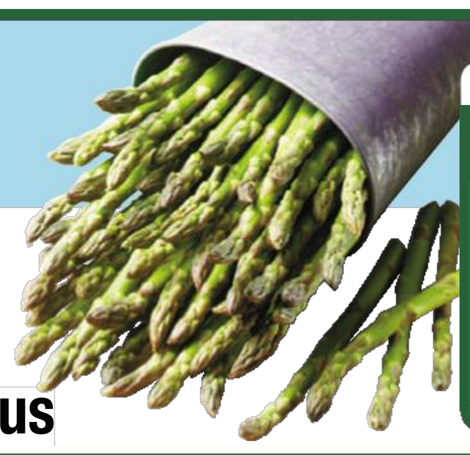
for U



SALE PRICE: .99¢ lb.
DIGITAL COUPON SAVINGS: 70¢ LB.
MEMBER PRICE after digital coupon savings** **29¢ lb.**
LIMIT 4 LBS.

Sweet Potatoes

for U



SALE PRICE: $3.99 lb.
DIGITAL COUPON SAVINGS: $2.52 LB.
MEMBER PRICE after digital coupon savings** **1.47 lb.**
LIMIT 4 LBS.

Asparagus

One app to shop any way you want.
*Visit Safeway.com/foru for program details.

Tap. Open the app | **Shop.** Order your items online | **Done.** Get delivery or DriveUp&Go™

SIGN UP TODAY!

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SAFEWAY

ALL SALE PRICES ARE MEMBER PRICE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

SALE PRICES EFFECTIVE 12/16 THRU 12/22/22



1.49 lb.
Smithfield Hams
shank or butt portion



2.99 lb.
Boneless Pork Loin Roast



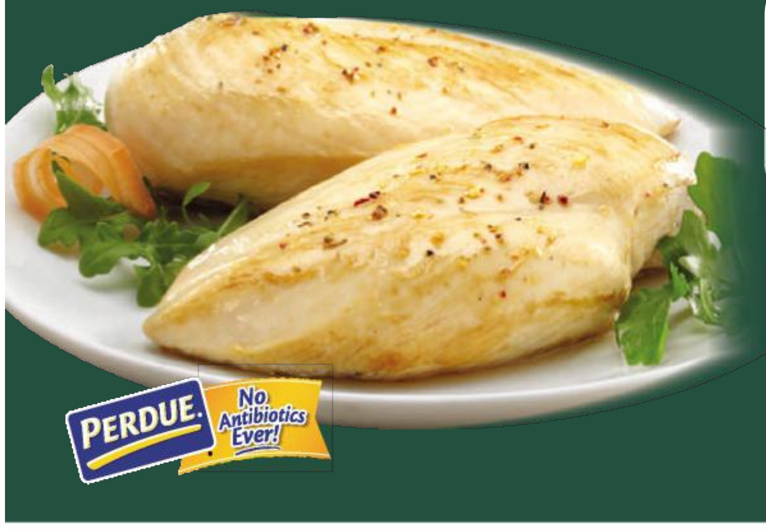
4.99 lb.
Beef Eye Round Roast



Extra Jumbo Raw Shrimp 16-20 ct., EZ peel, sold in a 2 lb. bag for $15.98; lesser quantities $9.99 lb.

7.99 lb.

Extra Jumbo Red Argentine Shrimp, 16-20 ct., wild caught: $9.99 lb.; sold in a 2 lb. bag for $19.98, lesser quantities $11.99 lb.



3.99 lb.
Perdue Boneless Breasts

Thin Sliced Boneless Breasts: $4.99 lb.

holiday entertaining

seafood savings



5.99 lb.
Extra Large Raw Shrimp
26-30 ct., EZ peel,
sold in a 4 lb. bag for $23.96;
sold in 2 lb. bag for $11.98;
lesser quantities $7.99 lb

Jumbo Raw Shrimp, 21-25 ct., EZ peel; $6.99 lb., sold in a 2 lb. bag for $13.98; lesser quantities $8.99



7.99 ea.
Cold Water Lobster Tails
3-4 oz., frozen or previously frozen

Blu or Eastern Cove Lump Crab Meat, 16 oz. pkg.: $17.99 ea.



8.99 lb.
EZ peel Raw Shrimp
13-15 ct. pkg.; sold in a 2 lb. bag for $17.98; lesser quantities $10.99 lb.

Extra Large Cooked Tail-On Shrimp, 26-30 ct.: $8.99 lb.; sold in a 2 lb. bag for $17.98; lesser quantities $10.99 lb.



9.99 lb.
Fresh Atlantic Salmon Fillet
farm raised

Open Nature® Cod Fillet: $8.99 lb.



6.99 lb.
Fresh Tilapia Fillets
farm raised,
2 lbs. or more, lesser quantities $7.99 lb.

Flounder Fillet, wild caught, 2 lbs. or more: $7.99 lb.; lesser quantities $8.99 lb.

feast of the 7 fishes



Fresh
- **Octopus (pulpo)** wild caught .... $7.99 lb.
- **Baccala** wild caught .... $12.99 lb.
- **Smelts** wild caught .... $5.99 lb.
- **Squid Tubes & Tentacles** wild caught .. $7.99 lb.



Alaskan Snow Leg Tray 24 oz. — **16.99 ea.**

Alaskan Snow Leg & Shrimp Combo Tray 32 oz. — **24.99 ea.**

Extra Jumbo Shrimp Platter 32 oz. — **39.99 ea.**



11.99 lb.
Large Snow Crab Clusters
wild caught

Colossal Snow Crab Clusters, wild caught: 17.99 lb.

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